



# ISCPA

IOWA SOCIETY OF CPAs

## Young Iowa CPA spotlight Katie New Indianola

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**Hometown:** I am from Indianola. I left for Ames to go to college but moved back after I graduated. I knew it was a place I wanted to raise my family.

**Alma Mater/Degree:** I graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting from Iowa State University. Along the way I also received a degree in management. I have always been interested in the management of companies and how businesses are run.

**Where do you work and what's your role?** I am a senior manager for McGowen Hurst Clark Smith (MHCS) in West Des Moines. I am in the leadership group for not-for-profit entities and specialize in tax. I help organizations with exemption applications, keeping in compliance for their tax-exempt status, IRS filings and general guidance. I still help with for-profit work too!

**What can we find you doing when you're not a work?** Most likely, I am at the ball field or gym for one of my girls' activities! I have two girls, 7 and 10. Our family is big into sports. We play at all times of the year. My husband coaches almost every sport they are involved in, so I am usually helping in any way I can. For me, I love to read. When I have time, I like to dig into a book, but I listen to audiobooks as well!

**What's one thing you can't make it through the day without?** Probably my phone, but not in the way one might initially think. I love to listen to music and also use it as an e-reader when I have a few spare minutes. Or when I am in the car, I love podcasts and audiobooks!

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** Still working with not-for-profit entities! I really enjoy interacting with the officers and boards of the organizations. They truly have a passion for what they are doing, and I love that I can help them reach their goals.

**What (or who) motivates you the most?** Helping and doing good in the community. I love that I get to help not-for-profit groups, and it turn, they help others. I get to support so many different types of groups that help people, animals, professional organizations, etc. I have the skills to help them with their business and tax-exemption, and they can spend their time making our community even better.

**What ways have you been involved in ISCPA and how have they benefited you?** The ISCPA is the best network for CPAs in our community. There are so many resources at our fingertips. I take advantage of the wonderful CPE opportunities and the work they are doing behind the scenes for our profession is amazing. I love spreading the word about careers of CPAs, so I help with the Career Awareness committee. I like educating students on the different options you can have with a CPA license and the ISCPA gives me the resources and platform to help!

**What made you want to become a CPA?** I started off in the profession because I love the numbers. I took three years of accounting in high school and declared my major right away at Iowa State. Doing the accounting work for companies and preparing tax returns felt like I was doing a puzzle, trying to get everything put together for a final product. But as the years progressed, I knew I wanted to stay in this profession because I realized that I could really help people. You can help family businesses run and keep the legacy alive or help organizations that have wonderful missions. There are so many possibilities!

**What's your best piece of advice for a college student thinking about becoming a CPA?** Make the contacts early! The best way to decide if you will like the profession is talking to people in the industry. Ask questions and do internships when possible!