



ISCPA

Young Iowa CPA spotlight

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Des Moines

June 2019

Hometown: At the end of my sixth grade year, my family moved to Baxter, Minn., so I consider it my hometown.

Alma Mater/Degree: Drake University, bachelors in business administration with a major in accounting.

Where do you work and what's your role? I work at Storey-Kenworthy Company and am involved in financial reporting and analysis and budgeting, but I fulfill numerous other functions as needed.

What can we find you doing when you're not a work? I am either playing ultimate frisbee (not to be confused with disc golf) or strategy board games like Scythe, Pandemic or Catan. NOT Monopoly.

What's one thing you can't make it through the day without? I can't live without my Starbucks.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? In 10 years, my hope is to be CFO of my current company or another, depending on how my career and life evolve.

What (or who) motivates you the most? I'm motivated most by a drive to improve how I work and how those around me work. Perfect is unattainable, but we can always take a step closer.

What ways have you been involved in ISCPA and how have they benefited you? I serve on the Business and Industry Committee. Being involved has definitely made it easier to find other CPAs to get advice and share best practices.

What made you want to become a CPA? My mom is a CPA, so I tried very hard not to get into accounting while I was in college, but you can't help what you're good at. Despite my efforts, I ended up in the accounting program anyway after being encouraged by my professors and advisors.

What's your best piece of advice for a college student thinking about becoming a CPA? Being a CPA is more than just numbers and math, especially if you want to be in private industry. The real value is in analysis and insights, so take an economics or a sociology course. I would also strongly encourage students to learn visual basic for applications (VBA) and some programming. In the last two years I have had to teach myself M Code, DAX and VBA, and recently discovered a use for Python. So even though I don't use it, I am glad I took a course in Java while I was in school to learn some basic computer language principles.