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A Report on Developments in Education—Prepared by the Relations with Educators Division, American Institute of Certifled Public Accountants

Number 3

November 1983

INSTITUTE TO APPOINT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON POSTBACCALAUREATE EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

The AICPA will appoint a special committee to formulate a program for the legislative implementation of a postbaccalaureate education requirement to sit for the CPA examination. The new committee was authorized by the Board of Directors at its September 14, 1983 meeting and was reported to AICPA Council on October 1. The Board's action was in response to a joint proposal of the AICPA's education executive and state legislation committees. Those committees reviewed the recently published reports of the Commission on Professional Accounting Education (see the *Journal of Accountancy*, August 1983, p. 9), which recommended that the AICPA provide the leadership in implementing a graduate education requirement for CPAs. That policy was first adopted by the Institute in 1969 and reaffirmed in 1978.

NEW POLICY ON REPRINTING THE CPA EXAM

The Institute has revised its policy, effective with the May 1984 exam, by which a fee is charged for the use of copyrighted CPA questions and unoffical anwers in certain publications and other reproductions. The charges will apply to any books or manuals that are designed, advertised, or promoted as preparation for taking examinations or sitting for the CPA examination. The fee will not apply to textbooks or other materials intended for students in college courses where the use of CPA examination materials is incidental to the educational objectives of the courses.

In the case of CPA exam preparation books or manuals published for sale, the fee will be one percent of the product's list price for each book or manual sold. The maximum fee is \$8,000 for a single edition of a given title.

Where CPA examination materials are reproduced and distributed to participants in a CPA exam preparation course or program, the fee will be one percent of the total revenue received from registrants, up to a maximum fee of \$8,000 for each revised version of the reproduction.

Any book or manual that includes reprinted material must indicate that the material is used with permission and carry appropriate notice to acknowledge and protect the AICPA copyright.

For further information, call Leslie Telinbacco at the AICPA (212-575-6648).

NEW AICPA APTITUDE TEST AVAILABLE

The AICPA has introduced a new Accounting Aptitude Test designed to help educators identify those students who have the skills needed for the study of accounting. The 50-minute, multiple-choice item test measures communication skills (vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension), quantitative skills (arithmetic and algebraic manipulations), and problem-solving skills (analogies, recognition of relevant data, and logic). This is the most recent addition to the AICPA accounting testing program's battery of aptitude and achievement tests that are being used by schools and firms to counsel students and help evaluate personnel (see November 1982 issue of *Update*). More information about the program can be obtained from Bea Sanders at the AICPA (212-575-6434). Orders for test materials should be sent directly to the AICPA Testing Project Office, The Psychological Corporation, 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44130 (216-234-5300).

AICPA STUDY SHOWS PROFILE OF ACCOUNTING EDUCATION

Despite a 64 percent increase in the number of schools offering doctoral programs in accounting, the ratio of the demand for to the supply of doctorally-qualified faculty remains at more than eight to one. The economic impact of this condition is revealed in the salaries of newly-hired assistant professors, which are higher than those with six or more years of teaching experience in 95% of the schools.

These are some of the findings reported in *Accounting Education: A Statistical Survey-1982-83*, which is authored by Dean Doyle Z. Williams of the School of Accounting of the University of Southern California. The fourth of a series published every five years since the 1967-68 survey, the report presents a profile of accounting programs, faculty, and other aspects of two-year, four-year, and graduate institutions.

According to the survey, the number of institutions with five-year programs of professional accounting has grown from twenty in 1977 to thirty-nine in 1982. Another finding is that 89 percent of the schools with and 40 percent of those without AACSB business accreditation expect to apply for accounting accreditation. The study also shows that 97 percent of the senior level institutions accept transfer credits for introductory accounting given in two-year schools. Intermediate accounting, however, is accepted by 45 percent of the nonAACSB accredited schools and only 12 percent of AACSB accredited schools.

The statistical survey report, which is expected to be published by the AICPA in December, also contains information on class size, teaching loads, use of part-time faculty, and professional certification and experience.

RECRUITING FILM PLACED WITH MAJOR DISTRIBUTOR

Prompted by a suggestion made at the state society executive directors' mid-winter meeting, the Relations with Educators Division negotiated an agreement with Modern Talking Picture Service, Inc. for distribution of the AICPA's recruiting film, "The Profession of Accounting Is" Modern has listed the film in promotional catalogues that have been mailed to high schools and colleges, and will send the film on a freeloan basis to those requesting it. In addition to a supply of the accompanying student hand-out brochures, film recipients will receive a list of the state societies to contact for the names of speakers or for additional information. This is intended to help establish or reinforce the relationships between the schools and the state societies. The distribution by Modern will supplement that made directly by the AICPA and by the state societies that have incorporated the film in their recruiting activities.

NEW FILM ON AICPA SERVICES

The AICPA Public Relations Division just produced "AICPA Membership Services," a 28-minute video program describing the services available to Institute members. Dick Rea, editor of the *Journal of Accountancy's* "Practitioners Forum," talks with AICPA vice presidents and directors about their areas of responsibility, including the library, Technical Information Service, management advisory services, practice management, continuing professional education, and others. To order the tape, which is available free of charge, write to Teresa Zimmerer at the AICPA. Please specify videocassette format: 3/4" U-Matic, 1/2" VHS, 1/2" Beta I, or 1/2" Beta II.

AICPA AWARDS \$38,200 IN DOCTORAL GRANTS IN 1983

In September, the Grants-In-Aid Selection Task Force reviewed 22 applications for doctoral dissertation grants in accounting from 16 schools, and awarded two grants, totaling \$16,800. Wanda I. DeLeo (Georgia State University) and Susan W. Winckler (Michigan State University) were each awarded \$8,400. The grants are awarded to doctoral can-

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didates at the dissertation stage so that they can concentrate on completing their research and earning their degrees.

At its March 1983 meeting, the task force awarded \$21,400 to three doctoral candidates, after considering 27 applications from 19 schools. Merrill T. Lewis (University of Southern California) was awarded \$8,400, Loren Margheim (Arizona State University) \$4,600, and William Read (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University) \$8,400.

The task force will meet again in March 1984 to make additional grants. Doctoral candidates who wish to apply for a grant must have their complete applications delivered to the AICPA no later than March 1. Copies of the flier describing eligibility and selection criteria and the application procedure are available from the Relations with Educators Division.

NAARS DATA BASE NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH SOME PERSONAL COMPUTERS

Accessibility of the NAARS data base has been expanded to users of the IBM Personal Computer, the IBM Displaywriter, and the IBM 3101. Developed by AICPA and Mead Data Central, Inc., the NAARS system can be used to research the financial statements, footnotes, and auditors' reports from the annual reports of over 7,000 companies. Information about the service and fees can be obtained from Hortense Goodman at the AICPA (212-575-6393). For information on the use of IBM equipment in lieu of Mead Data Central's dedicated terminal, call John Coyle (800-227-4908).

BEAVER AND FOSTER RECEIVE ACCOUNTING LITERATURE AWARDS

Two Stanford University professors were honored at the annual meeting of the American Accounting Association in New Orleans. William H. Beaver and George J. Foster were selected to receive an AICPA Notable Contributions to Accounting Literature Award. In the seventeenth year of this joint effort of the AAA and the AICPA, the works chosen were Beaver's book, Financial Reporting: An Accounting Revolution, and Foster's book, Financial Statement Analysis. Articles published in the last two years and books published in the last five years comprise the pool from which the winners are selected.

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