

ACTION • LETTER

An independent accrediting organization affiliated with the National Society of Accountants

President's Message: A Partnership with Colleges

by Peggy I. Johnson, CPA, EA, ABA, ATP, ECS

This issue I'd like to tell you about a program that ACAT has with colleges across the United States. Called the Capstone Program, it is a partnership between ACAT and colleges to help students earn the Accredited Business Accountant (ABA) credential. In communities where colleges offer the Capstone program, the local recognition of ACAT credentials is greatly enhanced, which benefits all credential holders as well as the participating colleges.

For those of you new to ACAT, the ABA is a national examination and credentialing program that recognizes students and practitioners who demonstrate a practical level of knowledge in accounting. It also establishes a uniform measure of proficiency that [For more, click here](#)

Tax Preparer Registration Legislation: What's Happening?

Reprinted from the NSAlert

It seems inevitable that the Senate Finance Committee will approve tax preparer registration legislation in the near future and this will be the first step in a process that will ultimately result in the enactment of this legislation. What has NSA been doing in this area? NSA has long supported the efforts of our members to not only be recognized as professionals but to **be** professionals. To that end, we have encouraged members to seek and maintain a professional credential, whether an ACAT credential, a CPA, EA or other professional designation.

The current legislative proposals would impose a requirement that any professional tax return preparer that is not covered by one of the credentials recognized in Circular 230 (CPA, attorney, or EA) would have to take and pass a new federal examination in order to become registered. Many of our members have taken the ACAT examinations and [For more update click here](#)

Consider your future success in terms of your future credentials

From a Capstone College Instructor

*by Lanny F. Nelms, ABA,
Accounting Program Director,
Gwinnett Technical College*

"Our college has been involved with the ABA Capstone course for approximately eight years. It has been rewarding to watch the students that take the exam, pass it and then move into the work force. They will often contact me after their first job and comment on the confidence that they felt during their interviewing process in being able to note the ABA credential on their resume. Even if the employer is not familiar with the designation it becomes a 'talking point' in the interview that allows the graduate to demonstrate their willingness to go above and beyond in their accounting education.

"I am currently serving as president of TACTYC (Teachers of Accounting at Two Year Colleges) an organization that I have

What can a prestigious credential be worth to you? Plenty, when you think about what it can do for your future success. Especially when that credential is the nationally renowned Accredited Business Accountant® (ABA) credential.

By earning the ABA, you can give yourself a competitive advantage – whether it's boosting business, fast-tracking a career or increasing income. In fact, a recent NSA survey revealed that the ABA is worth as much as \$14,000 in increased annual income to a full-time practitioner.

So, what are you waiting for? Get started on your way to realizing more opportunities, promoting your abilities and adding value by standing apart from the crowd. [Get a registration form today.](#)

He's Making a List and Checking It Twice

It is much too early in the year to worry about Santa Claus, but the time is always right to prepare for Uncle Sam and tax time. The list in question consists of the industry-specific Audit Technique Guides (ATGs) that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) developed for its Market Segment Specialization Program (MSSP). Below is a list of several guides containing a listing of information that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) wants to know about businesses.

You can learn some useful information from the ATG for your client's type of business:

- Overview about typical business practices for comparative purposes
- Typical audit-identified errors to identify common trouble spots
- IRS specific battle plan for your industry.

Some selected examples provide an inkling of how useful the information could be in the design and maintenance of a business's financial records: [Learn more, click here](#)

Cram Course a Success

For the first time in several years, NSA held an ABA Cram Course prior to the Annual Meeting. The two-day workshop was followed by the day-long ABA and ATP examination. The two-day preparation course was led by Bill Parrish, ABA, ATA, ATP, ECS, of (oneplusone) and Al Giovetti, CPA, ABA, ATA, ECS, who is in private accounting practice.

Of the 49 people signed-up for the course, 29 (60%) passed both parts of the ABA exam and earned the Accreditation Business Accountant credential. This is a higher percent than usual, but then the attendees had much more experience than is the norm. Nine people passed one part and six failed both parts.

been a part of for approximately 12 years. I have observed the reaction from my colleagues at our annual conference when ACAT has had the opportunity to make a presentation explaining the ABA certification and the Capstone course that is available to the colleges.

"The reception by the instructors to this credential has always been positive which further backs up the increased participation that ACAT has noted over the years with the colleges. I strongly recommend this credential to all of my accounting graduates." [Click here for the rest of the article.](#)

New Credential Holders

ACAT had 201 professional earn new credentials during the period May 24 to October 3, 2007. Please welcome these newly accredited individuals:

Jill M. Abrahamson, ABA, Saint Cloud, MN

Wesley Adams, ABA, Oakland, ME

Timothy W. Adams, EA, ATA, Irving, TX

Carol L. Adolphson, ABA, Chippewa Falls, WI

Gloria J. Albright, EA, ATA, ABA, ATP, ECS, Billings, MT

Robert S. Atkinson, EA, ABA, ATA, Lee's Summit, MO

Valerie A. Barrow, ATA,

In addition, ten people took the Accredited Tax Preparer portion of the test and earned the ATP credential. Two failed the ATP examination.

Washington, DC
Christine A. Bearl, ABA,
Maplewood, MN
Trina Belcher, ATP, Fife,
WA
Karen D. Belisle, ABA,
Centuria, WI
[More names by clicking
here](#)

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