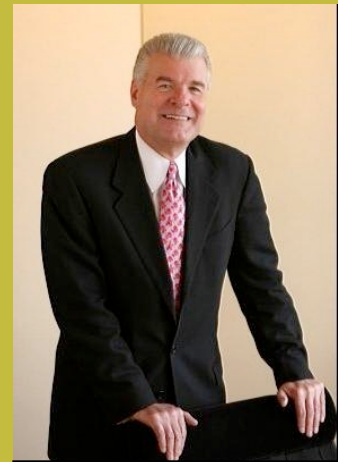


## THE PHD PROJECT SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

### AICPA AND THE PHD PROJECT: ATTRACTING DIVERSITY TO THE ACCOUNTING PROFESSION



Dennis Reigle, Director of  
Academic & Career  
Development at AICPA

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) has a long history of paying attention to diversity. For over 35 years, the AICPA has identified, recognized, and supported strategies and efforts within the organization and profession that are dedicated to achieving diversity. Their *Minority Initiatives Committee* oversees a comprehensive program of scholarship support, faculty development, and partnerships with outreach organizations. Their underlying belief is that the more diverse the accounting profession is, the better it will be able to serve.

It made perfect sense then, for the AICPA to partner with The PhD Project since it is aligned with their programs in many aspects. “The success of the profession depends on attracting diverse students into accounting as a major,” said Dennis Reigle, Director of Academic & Career Development at AICPA. “There needs to be a strong, able, engaged and diverse faculty body to help attract these students. The PhD Project ensures the profession will have this faculty.”

The AICPA is the largest professional association for CPAs in the country and imparts its’ members with the resources, information, and leadership that enable them to provide valuable services in the highest professional manner to benefit the public as well as employers and clients. “In order to properly serve,” said Reigle, “we need to have a diverse, professional base to reflect our clients.”

Since 1998, the AICPA has contributed \$400,000 to The PhD Project, an investment that has “blazed a trail for us,” Reigle said. “Using The PhD Project model, the profession has been able to develop the Accounting Doctoral Scholars Program (ADS). This is an initiative that aims to increase the pool of academically-qualified accounting faculty in auditing and tax, with experience in public accounting.”

The CPA profession has created the ADS Program to help reverse the shortage of Ph.D. accounting faculty in auditing and tax in U.S. colleges and universities. The development of the program is spearheaded by the largest accounting firms and is administered by the AICPA Foundation. To date, more than 70 of the country’s biggest accounting firms and over 30 state CPA societies have committed over \$16 million to the program. The program will provide funding for up to 30 new candidates each year for four years for a total of 120 newly educated Ph.D.s in auditing and tax over and above what the current system would produce.

“The AICPA has been stalwart in the area of attracting minorities to the accounting profession,” said Reigle. “Now, the profession can continue to address the shortage of accounting faculty with the ADS program, modeled after The PhD Project. We are very fortunate to be sponsoring such a trail-blazing program.”

For more information on the AICPA, visit <http://www.aicpa.org/> and the ADS Program, visit <http://adsphd.org/>.

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