



## Alaska Leadership Academy

### ENGAGE. CONNECT. EMPOWER.

"To create a sustainable Leadership Academy of the AKCPA for emerging CPAs (3-7 years of experience in the profession) that will help participants discover, sharpen and foster their leadership skills, enabling them to engage more in their own professional development and career; to connect them with the AKCPA through increased involvement with the Society; and to empower them to be active, thoughtful and effective leaders in their personal lives, their career and the accounting profession."

The Alaska Society of CPAs is very excited to launch its 6<sup>th</sup> Alaska Leadership Academy (AkLA) in January 2025. The program is aimed at increasing the leadership skills of emerging professionals at the beginning of their career, and your assistance is critical to the success of this effort.

Below is some important information for you to consider.

#### WHY DO THIS?

It is critical that the Society take the lead in creating a pool of talent which organizations can draw on to fill leadership roles, especially as succession becomes an increasing concern in the next 15 years. While some larger firms and companies may have a program in place for developing staff, smaller ones may have limited access to resources. In addition to professional development, we envision these members would serve on AKCPA committees, be leaders in their communities and join the profession's future visionaries.

#### HOW ARE CANDIDATES CHOSEN?

Individual candidates will complete a comprehensive application form, and obtain a firm partner or equivalent sponsorship for the year. **Applications are due in the AKCPA office by November 30<sup>th</sup>, and acceptance letters will be sent out no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>.** Amy Cooper and Donna Salter (with assistance from past participants) are providing the content for the program, and the classes are eligible for CPE credit. Candidates will be reviewed, interviewed, and selected by a designated leadership team.

#### WHEN WILL THE SESSIONS TAKE PLACE?

The Academy will consist of a one-day session on **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025** and a two-day session on **June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

Participants are asked to commit to all aspects of this program and to share in its cost. Each member accepted into the program will be responsible for a non-refundable fee of \$675.

We are committed to providing a quality program that will contribute to the future success of your firm, the Alaska Society of CPAs, and the profession as a whole. Please encourage and support your emerging CPAs by urging them to apply to the program, and give them your support as they grow during the year.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with either of us, or Crista Burson at the AKCPA, with questions or for more information.

Sincerely,

Margaret Hernandez, AKCPA President  
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[mhernandez1@fcsa-ak.com](mailto:mhernandez1@fcsa-ak.com)

Amy Cooper, Leadership Committee Chair  
907.474.5745  
[akcooper@alaska.edu](mailto:akcooper@alaska.edu)



**Interested in the AKCPA's 2025 Leadership Academy?  
Here is some information which may help you.**

**Who will attend?**

Members in good standing of the Alaska Society of CPAs who have 3-7 years in public accounting, industry, government or education. The emphasis is on emerging professionals.

**How much time will I have to commit?**

The Academy will consist of one one-day session on **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025** and a two-day session **June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. We encourage all participants to join us at the 2025 Annual Meeting in Seward, Alaska, May 28<sup>th</sup> – May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Where will the sessions be held?**

In-person sessions will be at the Alaska Society of CPAs' office in Anchorage.

**Who will lead the training and why were they chosen?**

Amy Cooper and Donna Salter are returning speakers and will be leading the training. Some sessions may be led by other professionals based on their expertise.

**Why do I need a managing partner or industry equivalent to sign off on my application?**

Having a managing partner (or equivalent) review and sign off will ensure both applicants and the firm sponsors understand their commitment to the training.

**How will my participation benefit my organization?**

This training will provide each candidate with a set of **life** skills. You will become a valuable asset with a broad range of tools that extend well beyond your specific job title.

**How many hours of CPE will I earn?**

The training is recommended for 24 CPE hours. We will send you a CPE certificate upon completion of the course.

**What is the cost and who will pay it?**

Each member accepted will be responsible for a non-refundable fee of \$675. Payment is due by January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The participants are asked to commit to all aspects of this program and to share in its cost. The fees can be paid by you, your firm or organization or some combination of the two.

**What will be my commitment to the Society following graduation?**

You will be expected to serve on one of the standing committees of the AKCPA, as board member, or on a task force of the AKCPA.

**Want more information, or an application?**

Get in touch with Crista Burson, President & CEO; [akcpa@ak.net](mailto:akcpa@ak.net) or 907-562-4334.

**Leadership Academy Application Form**  
**Submit application by: November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**



Submit Application via email to  
[akcpa@ak.net](mailto:akcpa@ak.net) or mail to:  
AKCPA  
2600 Cordova Street, Suite 211  
Anchorage, AK 99503

**Personal Information**

**Name:**

[        ] Male [        ] Female

**Address:**

**Home telephone:**

**Email:**

**Professional Information**

**Current employer:**

**Position:**

**Length of time with employer:**

**Address:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Zip:**

**Office telephone:**

**Cell phone:**

**Email:**

**Date of CPA License:**

**AKCPA Member:** [        ] Yes

**Sponsor**

**All leadership academy candidates must be sponsored by an employer, educator, or state society member.**

**Name:**

**Office telephone:**

**Email:**

**Professional Volunteer Activities**

**Organization:**

**Committee/Purpose:**

**Office Held:**

**Achievements:**

*Community Volunteer Activities*

**Organization:**

**Committee/Purpose:**

**Office Held:**

**Achievements:**

*Presentations, Honors, Awards and Other Achievements*

*Why do you want to participate in the AKCPA Leadership Academy?*

*Additional Information*

*Practice Area*

- Academia**
- Business & Industry**
- Consulting**
- Government**
- Public Accounting**
- Small <10**
- Medium 10-24**
- Large 25+**

**Expectations of Leadership Academy Participants:**

1. Complete assignments
2. Review Leadership Action Plan Goals and results with Managing Partner or Mentor
3. Participants agree to volunteer for service on an AKCPA Committee or task force
4. Participants agree to mentor future Leadership Academy class participants

I have read and understand the above expectation statement:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_