



CCFO NEWS

Certified County Finance Officer

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Division of
Local Government Audit

Increasing Value Through People



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What a difference a year can make. In the past 12 months, we have learned new terminology like social distancing, contact tracing and murder hornets. We have adapted to changes in our personal lives with virtual learning, drive-by birthdays and smaller holiday gatherings. We upended our traditional work environments by introducing mask wearing, rotating schedules and working from home more frequently or perhaps for the first time. So much uncertainty has forced each of us to focus on what is most important, both personally and profes-

sionally. For me, it's the people. The most important assets in any organization are the people and 2020 proved this time and again.

When you take care of your people, they take care of you.

At the Comptroller's Office, it did not matter that our routines were toppled overnight, that our work environments changed from offices to kitchen tables or that we only saw one another through a screen. We somehow still managed to get the job done. I find myself asking the question "WHY were we successful?" I believe the answer is simple; when you take care of your people, they take care of you.

When employees feel valued, engaged and encouraged; when they have a mission they can understand and support; when they enjoy coming to work and facing the challenges of the day, they deliver. Investing in one's employees is the most important thing an organization can do.



The CCFO program is one of those investments. This program provides an opportunity to understand county government, enhance existing skills and develop a more thorough understanding of accounting and financial reporting principles alongside your peers across the state. The program directly aligns with the Comptroller's mission to make government work better and provides county financial officers with the tools they need to excel on the job. For those of you who have completed the program, well done. You are better equipped to perform your jobs and to make a difference in your organization. For county officials who have devoted resources by sending your employees through the program, well done. You have recognized the importance of investing in your people and improving their career potential. For those who are considering the program, know that this investment will signify to your employers that you care about your personal success and will signify to the citizens of your county that you care about your community's success. As Benjamin Franklin once said, "an investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

There is still so much unknown. Once COVID is behind us, we don't know what our "new normal" will look like. If 2021 is anything like 2020, we don't know what obstacles will be thrown in our paths. One thing we do know is that we will get the job done regardless of what comes our way because when you take care of your people, they take care of you.

Katie Armstrong



CPE

Continuing Professional Education

The deadline for all CPE hours is
December 31st.



Farwell

I leave this role with gratitude for the people I met.

Yanna Utley Legislative Audit Support Specialist

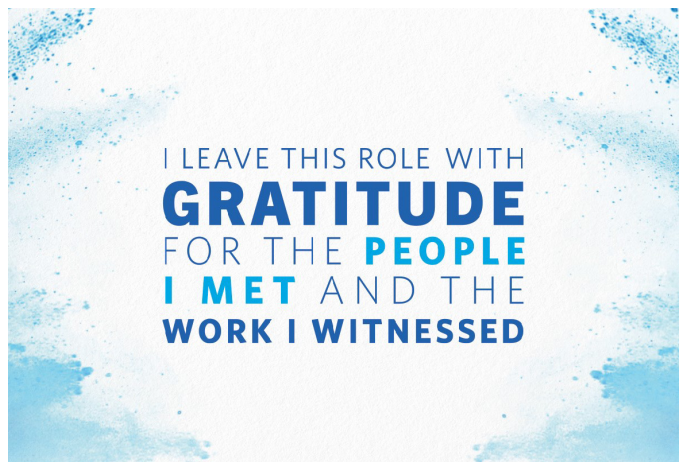
I would never have thought that a day like this would come when I bid farewell to you. March was my last month with the Division of Local Government Audit. I remain with the Comptroller's Office under the Office of Management Services.

Thank you all for the opportunity to work with you in obtaining your Certified County Finance Officer (CCFO) certification. It has been a pleasure.

Having had several opportunities to communicate with so many of you through email correspondence or over the phone has given me a chance to know each of you personally. Your kind words and your willingness to allow me to assist you has continually warmed my heart.

If there were an opportunity for me to speak at a public gathering in your honor, I would quote these words from John Buchan, "The task of leadership is not to put greatness into

people, but to elicit it, for the greatness is there already." Having maintained nearly 200 CCFO accounts, I see greatness in each of you. The Comptroller's Office and other training sponsors have given you the tools to become great leaders. As a CCFO, you all are leaders in your county who have made a difference and will continue to do so. What you have learned through the CCFO program will help you make your county great through the people you inspire. Continue to draw the greatness out by continuing to turn your county around, which some of you have done in a significant way. For that, I say congratulations, job well done.



Welcome to the Team

Susan Lott

Legislative Audit Support Specialist



We are excited to welcome Susan Lott to our team. Susan graduated from Franklin University with a degree in

Human Resources Management and Business Administration from Columbus, Ohio. She previously worked for The Auto Club Group (AAA) in their Administrative Offices for the past 12 years in the Travel department in Tampa, Florida. Susan focused on training, development and increase in sales for the domestic travel agents on products such as Disney, Universal Orlando, Grand Canyon Railway, and many more. Her biggest enjoyment on the job is to watch the growth of individuals and their success.

On April 1st, Susan began to take on the responsibilities related to the CCFO program. Susan will be an asset to our team and we look forward to working with her. Please join us in welcoming Susan Lott to the CCFO team. Susan can be reached at Susan.Lott@cot.tn.gov or 615-401-7730. □

CERTIFIED COUNTY FINANCE OFFICER SPOTLIGHT: **Sandrine Batts**

*Director of Accounts & Budgets
Cheatham County*



What interested you in the CCFO program?

Any opportunity to improve my job performance and education is important to me. Continued education is always a benefit. Despite how many years an individual may work in any specific field, we all learn something new every day. The CCFO program is a wonderful tool for any individual working in county government, not just those of us in the accounting field. It helps all departments understand why things are done in a specific way, and why certain laws exist.

How would you say the CCFO program has

impacted your position? I feel that by completing the course and receiving my certification, I can better represent my county. The classes cover all aspects of accounting and budgeting, so in conjunction with my work experience, the CCFO program gave me another layer of knowledge and understanding of county government. In addition, the networking factor allowed me to make connections and build friendships with others that can help me along the way. For instance, if I run into something that our county has not dealt with in the past, I wouldn't hesitate to reach out to someone I met through my participation in this program. Learning from one another is an added benefit to the program.

What would you say to anyone thinking about participating in the CCFO Program?

I highly recommend it! The amount of information CTAS was able to pack into this program is remarkable. Despite how much we learn on the job, there are always things we may not have known or encountered in our career. Not only was it a benefit in the educational aspect, but interacting one on one with the all of the CTAS and state Comptroller staff was an added bonus – they are all wonderful!





Upcoming Training Classes/Conferences

CPE Provider Training Opportunities

(The following list is not a preapproval or endorsement of the provider organizations, nor do we provide any assurance regarding classes offered by the organizations.)

ACFE (Association of Certified Fraud Examiners)
<http://www.acfe.com/>

ACPEN (Accounting CPE Network)
<http://www.acpen.com/>

AGA (Association of Government Accountants) (CGFM)
<http://www.agacgfm.org/>

AICPA (American Institute of Certified Public Accountants)
CPEXpress
<https://www.aicpa.org/cpeandconferences/cpeselfstudy.html>

Checkpoint Learning CPEasy
<http://www.cpeasy.com/>

Continuing Academics CPETutor
<http://www.cafacpe.com/default.aspx>

GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association)
http://www.gfoa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=28&Itemid=49

Local Government Corporation
<https://www.localgovernmentcorporation.com/drupal7/>

NASACT (National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, & Treasurers)
<http://nasact.org/>

TGFOA (Tennessee Government Finance Officers Association)
<http://www.tngfoa.org>

TSCPA (Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants)
<http://www.tscpa.com>

Tyler Technologies
<http://www.tylertech.com/>

Western CPE
<http://www.westerncpe.com/>



Government Finance Officers Association

Save the Date

2021 Virtual Conference, July 12-23

Fifty+ Sessions

Earn a maximum of thirty-eight CPE credits

Visit <https://www.gfoa.org/conference> to register



NASACT 2021

TENNESSEE TRAINING SEMINAR

May 10-11 | Nashville | Virtual

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this years seminar will be held as a **hybrid event** that will include in-person training at Lipscomb University in Nashville as well as a virtual option for those who cannot attend in person.

Cost

- Live Training in Nashville: \$345
- Virtual Option: \$295 (use Promo Code rate)



Visit https://www.nasact.org/tn_training to register



Training Events



Visit <https://www.agacgfm.org/PDT/Home.aspx> to register



Visit <https://www.agacgfm.org/Fraud/Home.aspx> to register



Upcoming Event

Free Training Fall 2021

The Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury is excited to host a training event with **16 hours of CPE at no cost to participants**. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Coming to an area near you.

Congratulations 2021

Certified County Finance Officers

ALLEN, JOY M.
ANDERSON, TAMMY L.
BAILEY, KAREN
BALES, COLETTE R.
BELL, LISA M.
BERWICK, BRANDY
BOBINSKI, HOLLIE
BOYCE, ANGELA
BROOM, CARLA
BUCHANAN, ERIC
BUFFORD, TISQUANA
BURCH, SHANA N.
BURKE, BRAD
CHANDLER, BRENDA
COLES, DIANE C.
COOPER, STARLA
CROSS, BRENDA D.
DALTON, SHELLI
DAVIS, MILDRED
DAVIS, SHERRY L.
DAY, MICHELE
DIBBLE, SANDRA M.
DILLARD, AMANDA R.
DODSON, MICHELLE
DURALL JR., WILLIAM
ELDER, JESSICA
EVETTS, MELISSA
FANNING, BROOKE S.
FARMER, RACHEL
FESMIRE, SHELLY E.
FINLEY, DEENA M.
FORAKER, ZANE
FOX, AMY
FREDERICKS, VENA

FRESHOUR, NIKI
GALERNO, TRACEY
GIBSON, ASHLEY M.
GRANT, LOVIE
GREEN, KELLY F.
GREEN, KIMBERLY H.
GREEN, SYDNEY
GREENWELL, DENISE
GREER, DONNA L.
GREER, RENA
GRISSOM, JESSICA
GUY, DEBBIE
HARDER, BRIAN T.
HELMS, JESSICA S.
HELTON, WHIT
HENSON, JUSTIN A.
HENSON, MICHELLE
HERNANDEZ, JESSICA
HICKMAN, DIANE
HODGE, BRIDGETTE
HOLDBROOK, ROBERT J.
HOLT, NATHAN R.
HOWELL, HOLLI
HUGHES, HELEN M.
HUNTER, JAMIE D.
HURST, TAMI
ISABELL, BETTY
JAMES, PAMELA E.
JENKINS, MONICA R.
JOHNSON, SUSAN M.
JONES, SONJA R.
JOYCE, JONI B.
KANE, PEGGY A.
KEETON, CASSI

KING, LORI
LACKEY, SHARON
LANE, ROBIN L.
LAYMAN, ASA
LEDFORD, DEBORAH
LEWIS, JULIE
LOFTIS, TERESA
LONG, SHELLEY
LUALLEN, JASON D.
LYLE, LESLEY N.
MARCUM, CHAD S.
MARCUM, ESTER D.
MAYNARD, REBECCA
MAYS, ALLISON
MCCOLLOUGH, CHRISTOPHER
MCGAHA, HEATHER L.
MILLER-MCGEE, JUDY
MITCHELL, LEAH R.
MORGAN, KELLEY
MORLOCK, STEPHANIE
NABORS, WAYNE
NICHOLS, AMBER
OWENS, TONYA L.
PATTERSON, STEPHANIE
PEDGINSKI, JENNIFER
PETTY, SHARON
PHILLIPS, JUSTIN
POSS, JAMES L. "JIMMY"
PRICE, HANNAH D.
PRUETT, DONNA
RAMSEY, GINGER L.
REAGAN, SARA
REYNOLDS, JENNIFER
RHEA, SCOTT B.

RISNER, CINDY
ROBINSON, DENNEY W.
RUSSELL, SAVANNAH
RYAN, DONNA C.
SAMPLES, RENA'
SHAW, SHELLEY D.
SHELTON, KENDRA
SOWDER, DEBORAH
SPOONE, DEBRA
SUTER, JENNIFER
TAPP, KARLEY
TAYLOR, JEFFREY G.
THARP, PENELOPE
THOMAS, WENDY
TRAVIS, ASHLEY
TUCKER, MARK
TURNER, JENNIFER R.
UNDERWOOD, BROOKE
VIAR, COURTNEY DALTON
WAITES, CANDICE
WALKER, H. STEVEN
WALKER, JENNIFER
WEBBER, TARA
WEST, MELISSA A.
WHITSON, APRIL
WILLIAMS, ANGIE
WILLIAMS, KIMBERLY A.
WOODARD, SHANA J.
WORMSLEY, HOLLY
WRIGHT, JULIE



County Technical
Assistance Service

INSTITUTE for PUBLIC SERVICE

