

DINNER MEETING + 2 CPEs
Student and Past Presidents' Night
Tuesday, October 16, 2012

5:00 pm Networking 6:00-8:00 pm Dinner and Speaker
Fratello's Italian Grille, Manchester, NH

The Benefits of Certification(s): A Panel Presentation

Moderator: Tom Kubishta, Becker Professional Education,
Northern New England

Professional certifications can open many doors in an increasingly competitive marketplace. This panel presentation is designed to give college seniors and others seeking employment in the field of accounting a broader perspective on professional certifications and the career paths opened by specific certifications. Our panel presenters represent four different accounting certifications and will discuss the benefits and career options of each.

Yvette J. Lazdowski, DBA, CMA, CFM, is an Associate



Professor of Accounting at Plymouth State University. She has over 20 years' experience in the fields of accounting, information systems, and management, having held positions at New Hampshire Ball Bearings, Textron Corporation, Kollsman Corporation, and Fleet Corporation. Dr. Lazdowski started her teaching career in 2005. In addition, she has certifications as a CMA (certified management accountant), and CFM (certified financial manager). She resides in New Hampshire with her husband and three children, where they enjoy outdoor activities and family vacations.

John J. Sullivan, CFE, joined Melanson, Heath & Company in 1986 and was admitted as a shareholder in 1989. He has over 30 years of experience providing a wide range of services to governmental and non-profit clients. As a member of the American Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Mr. Sullivan has participated in numerous fraud detection and prevention seminars; and has conducted fraud and forensic examinations Vermont,



Massachusetts and New Hampshire. His activities have included investigation, detection, documentation, case preparation and providing expert testimony. Mr. Sullivan also performs consulting to evaluate organizational systems and human resources management to improve operational efficiencies and build in safety measures to minimize risk.

Samantha Spezeski, CIA, MBA is currently the Director of Internal Audit for the Boston Consortium for Higher Education (TBC). She was hired in April 2008 to implement the Co-sourced function of Internal Audit which is now a shared department for nine Higher Education institutions. Prior to joining the TBC, Ms. Spezeski was the Director of Internal Audit for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority and previous to that worked for the University System of New Hampshire Internal Audit department as Interim Director/Manager. She currently serves as the President of the board for the New Hampshire chapter of Institute of Internal Auditors.



Donna Atkins, CPA is an entrepreneur, master personal financial planner and photographer. Prior to `189, Donna worked for a regional accounting firm in the tax and audit departments as well as working in the state of New Hampshire Legislature as an auditor. In 1989, she opened her own CPA practice which she sold in 1999. Since 1999, Donna's been busy doing personal financial planning, corporate consulting, teaching and photography. Currently, Donna teaches individuals how to pass the CPA exam for Becker, operates a small registered investment advisory firm, and is working on a new start-up company called Light Channel Photography. In her spare time she likes to travel, hike the White Mountains, ballroom dance and, of course, take pictures.

