



**RANDY L. WATKINS IS ONE OF 28 YOUNG CPAs NATIONWIDE  
SELECTED FOR AICPA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

**YOUR CITY AND STATE (AUGUST 14, 2009)** – Randy L. Watkins, a Shareholder with Watkins & Schommer, Inc. in Greeley, Colorado, is one of 28 CPAs under age 35 from around the country selected by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for its first annual Leadership Academy.

Watkins joined his professional colleagues July 7 – 9 in Chicago to begin developing his potential as a future leader of the CPA profession. He received guidance and insights from current leaders, including Ernest Almonte, AICPA chairman, and Barry Melancon, AICPA president and CEO. Marty Linsky, adjunct lecturer in public policy at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, led many of the sessions over the course of the three days.

“We must identify, develop and prepare our young leaders,” said Almonte. “We need young people who not only have superior technical skills, but also the potential to shape the direction of our great profession and become leaders in their community. Randy Watkins is one of those people.”

The AICPA chose the 28 individuals from more than 100 candidates recommended by their employers, state CPA societies or both. All candidates had to submit resumes that included work history, licensure information, professional volunteer activities, community service, and awards and honors. In addition, the candidates each had to supply a statement explaining why participating in the Leadership Academy would be important personally. The AICPA reviewed and evaluated each submission.

Randy is a native of Colorado, growing up in Greeley, Colorado. Randy graduated from the University of Northern Colorado in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. He has nearly a decade of experience, working in a large international firm and a large local firm in Denver, Colorado. Randy specializes in audits of privately held and publicly traded companies in the following industries: computer software development and technology, pharmaceutical, manufacturing and distribution, non-profit, real-estate, and hospitality. He also has experience with consulting and compliance engagements in accordance with Sarbanes-Oxley section 404. Randy takes a special interest in utilizing these skills to identify opportunities to improve operational efficiencies and internal controls over financial reporting and accounting.

Randy is a member of the Colorado Society of Certified Public Accountants, serving as the Treasurer of the Northern Chapter Board of Directors, and participating in the Transitions Committee and Governmental Issues Forum. He is also the Treasurer of the University of Northern Colorado Alumni Association Board of Directors, and chairman of the Accounting Academic Advisory Board to the Monfort College of Business at UNC. Additionally, Randy is a current member of the Northern Colorado Active 20/30 Children’s Foundation.

Randy is 31 years old, married and living in Greeley, Colorado.



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