



ORGANIZING PARTNERS



Press Release  
For Immediate Release

## Black CPA Centennial's 40 Under 40 Black CPA Award Winners Named

*The 40 Under 40 Black CPA Award recognizes high-achieving Black CPAs influencing the profession, breaking barriers, and making an impact in the community.*

**CHICAGO**, Sept. 16, 2021 – In 1921, 25 years after the first certified public accountant (CPA) certificate was granted in the United States, John W. Cromwell Jr. became the first Black CPA. He opened a door through which thousands of Black accountants would eventually pass. With 2021 marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cromwell's landmark achievement, the Black CPA Centennial—a year-long national awareness campaign recognizing Black CPAs in the United States and pushing for more progress to be made in achieving diversity, equity, and inclusion in the CPA profession—is proud to recognize 40 outstanding Black CPAs with its special 40 Under 40 Black CPA Award.

“Speaking on behalf of the Black CPA Centennial's organizing partners and the award selection committee, we're extremely excited to recognize the next generation of Black CPAs who'll build on the success of those who came before them,” says Todd Shapiro, president and CEO of the Illinois CPA Society.

These remarkable individuals are active mentors and leaders, untiring advocates, driven changemakers, and an inspiration to others. They demonstrate determination, innovation, and professional success. Building upon the leaders who paved the way for others, these 40 award recipients are serving their communities and advancing diversity in the profession.

“It's our hope that recognizing the success of this diverse group of accomplished young CPAs will help drive momentum, encouragement, and support for others to continue to overcome adversity and inspire positive change in their personal and professional communities,” Shapiro says.

This select group of 40 Under 40 Black CPA Award winners will be formally honored at the virtual Black CPA Centennial Celebration on Nov. 12, 2021.

Charmone Adams	Grant Thornton LLP	New York
Robert Allen	The Allen CPA Firm PLLC	Texas
E. ZeNai Brooks	Cummins Inc.	Indiana
Garrard Brown	Avid Technology Inc.	Massachusetts
Andrew Coombs	Coombs CPA PC	New Jersey
Brittany Cummings	BKD CPAs & Advisors	Missouri
Mavery Davis	New Economy Works WV	West Virginia
Nick Dulo	BDO USA LLP	Virginia
Durran Dunn	Graphic Packaging International LLC	Georgia

Marques Fisher	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	Illinois
Alliyah Gary	KPMG LLP	Illinois
Victoria Ghafoor	Merck and Co. Inc.	New Jersey
Chinedu Iwuora	Deloitte LLP	Illinois
Brittani Jackson	Indiana University	Michigan
Kendra LaFleur	Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC	Georgia
Robin LeBlanc	Robin T. LeBlanc, CPA, CGMA LLC	Louisiana
Jessica Lewis	Riveron Consulting LLC	Maryland
Lanier Mason	Ernst & Young LLP	New York
Jessica McClain	Brand USA	Maryland
C. Zachary Meyers	C. Zachary Meyers PLLC	West Virginia
Bee Nance	Professor Nance's Accounting Academy	Texas
Kenneth Omoruyi	CKO CPAs & Advisors	Texas
Renée Rawlins	KPMG LLP	Maryland
Charlene Rhinehart	Salo	Illinois
Brian Rose	BDO USA LLP	New Jersey
Marie Rosier	MMR CPA	Florida
Aaron Slaughter	Withum Smith+Brown PC	Maryland
Thalia Smith	Deloitte LLP	New York
Victor Sturgis	Crowe LLP	Michigan
Nicholas Tatum	Under Armour	Maryland
Kimberly Thomas	RSM US LLP	Florida
Terrell Turner	TLTurner Group	North Carolina
Blaise Wabo	A-LIGN	Colorado
Jennifer Walker	Florida Power & Light Company	Florida
Tameka Walters	Clarfeld Citizens Private Wealth	New York
Richard Ward	Capital Configuration LLC	Pennsylvania
Michael White II	Indelible Business Solutions Inc.	Florida
Chérie Williams	Windes Inc.	California
Kendra Williams	Meaden & Moore Ltd.	Ohio
Jeff Wilson II	The W2 Group LLC	Maryland

All are welcome to participate in this special event to collectively honor the past, celebrate the progress, and build on the future of the Black CPA community. Event proceeds and donations will go to the Black CPA Centennial Fund and support national scholarships and other programs dedicated to paving the way for Black individuals interested in pursuing the CPA credential.

To learn more about the award winners and to register for the celebration, please visit [www.BlackCPACentennial.cpa](http://www.BlackCPACentennial.cpa).

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### **About the Black CPA Centennial**

The Black CPA Centennial is a year-long celebration in recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Black CPA in the United States led by a consortium of organizing partners, including the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Diverse Organization of Firms, Illinois CPA Society, National Association of Black Accountants, and National Society of Black CPAs. Visit [www.BlackCPACentennial.cpa](http://www.BlackCPACentennial.cpa) for the latest information and event details or to support the celebration.

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