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News Release

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Detroit Airport CPA Lauren Foster Tapped to Join First National Leadership Academy for Young CPAs

DETROIT—Lauren Foster, Assistant Controller with Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA), is one of 28 Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) under age 35 from around the United States selected by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) for its first annual Leadership Academy.

Foster joined her professional colleagues July 7–9 in Chicago to begin developing her potential as a future leader of the CPA profession. She 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. Lauren 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.

“The Airport Authority applauds AICPA for their selection of a highly qualified and talented professional who has already proven to be a strong and capable leader within our organization,” WCAA CEO Lester Robinson said of Foster. “As a CPA myself, I am excited to see such an investment in our next generation and am proud to have one of our very best contributing to and learning from such a selective program.”

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Foster, of Canton, Mich., has more than eight years experience and progressive advancement in the public accounting and government market sectors. She possesses in-depth knowledge of accounting, auditing, financial reporting, process reengineering and management disciplines. Foster serves on numerous committees within the Airport Authority, including as chairperson of its Utilities Task Force.

Prior to joining the Airport Authority in 2005, Foster was part of KPMG's Assurance Division, where she spent four years performing audit engagements. Her clients spanned a range of industries and included Fortune 100 companies, governments, and non-profit organizations. Foster holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Oakland University and has been a licensed CPA for more than five years.

Established in 2002 by the Michigan State Legislature, WCAA is an independent agency responsible for the operation of Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) and Willow Run Airport (YIP). Serving more than 35 million passengers each year, DTW is the largest airport in Michigan and among the world's busiest air transportation hubs with more than 1,200 take-offs and landings per day to and from more than 160 destinations worldwide. Historic Willow Run Airport, once home to the world's largest bomber plant and the center of the Arsenal of Democracy, today serves as an important general aviation and cargo reliever airport to DTW. Together, WCAA's operation is responsible for an estimated annual economic impact of \$7.7 billion in the State of Michigan.

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