President’s Message:

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and that you had the opportunity to get out and enjoy some of the warmer weather we have been experiencing recently. It’s hard to believe that our fiscal 2016-2017 year is already more than halfway over but we have some great events coming up for you. The schedule is included in the newsletter to help you plan for the events.

With the fiscal year coming to a close in a few months, there are volunteer leadership opportunities for you to get involved in the Chapter. This is a great opportunity for you to assist in keeping the Chapter successful and to develop leadership skills. If you’re interested in volunteering for an officer position or board member in our chapter, then the time is now! Please email me at tony.risinger@westarenergy.com if you would like to be included on the ballot for any of the open positions. I will be accepting nominations through Friday, February 24th.

Second VP of Meetings
Provide educational programs of subjects related to internal auditing with the purpose of improving the auditing competency and effectiveness of Chapter members.

Treasurer
Oversees the Chapter budgeting and financial affairs.

Tony Risinger

*IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PAYMENTS*

As of 09/01/2016 payments for all meeting and seminars need to be sent to the following address:

Capitol Federal
Attention: Joe Beasley, Audit Services Department
700 S Kansas Ave
Topeka, KS 66603-3818

February Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2017
Place: Westar Multipurpose Room
818 S Kansas Ave
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Menu: Aboud’s Chef’s Choice
Dessert
Iced Tea and Water
RSVP: By noon, Friday, February 3, 2017

Registration:
Member $15
Non-member $20

February Meeting

CPE 1 hours
Speaker – Jana Merfen
Topic – ERM Best Practices for Implementation

Jana Merfen, Director of Enterprise Risk Management and Business Process Operations, has more than 14 years of Audit, Compliance & IT security and Enterprise Risk Management experience. Jana has technical expertise with successfully implementing Sarbanes Oxley, PCI DSS, HIPAA, GLBA, FFIEC, NIST 800-53, FedRAMP, SOC 1, and SOC 2 compliance. Jana has facilitated and led a team to successfully create a segmented network architecture solution to meet PCI DSS and FedRAMP compliance.
requirements. She has implemented Sarbanes Oxley at a national data center provider and worked on their IPO in October 2013 as Director of Internal Audit. Jana has been interviewed and provided many presentations surrounding her expertise and best practices for compliance with third party data center providers, most notably on a recent Meet the Boss Interview with Nick Pryke. She has also implemented successful Enterprise Risk Management and Business Continuity Management programs. Jana oversees Information Security at a financial institution ensuring the development and execution of the Information Security Program.

Jana is an executive leader who provides innovative solutions and highly effective communication with the executive management team as well as across all segments of the organization. Jana has led multiple cross-functional initiatives providing a collaborative team environment, while developing each team member to their fullest potential. Jana is a strategic and driven leader who ensures successful results meet the key strategic business objectives of the organization.

Jana is active in the community and currently is a Board member on the WIN for KC board. Jana also was the leader for the Olathe Leadership Program’s community service project by raising donations and sponsorships for children entering foster care with KVC Health Systems.

**Event Refund Policy – The Institute of Internal Auditors (Topeka Chapter):**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure event cancellations are refunded appropriately. Events include, but are not limited to: monthly meetings, luncheons, and seminars.

Cancellations made prior to the event registration deadline will be refunded at 100% of the event fee (or would not be billed if the attendee did not pay in advance).

Cancellations made after the event registration deadline will not be refunded (or would be billed at 100% of the event fee if the attendee did not pay in advance)

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**Topeka Chapter IIA 2017 Spring Seminar**

**Speaker:** Toby Groves  
**Topic:** Beyond the Checklist: Excellence in Auditing Psychology for Auditors  
**Date:** April 14, 2017  
**Location:** Westar  
**Time:** 8:00 – 4:00, registration starts at 7:30 A.M  
**CPE:** 8 hours

**IIA Chat:**

**Name:** Amelia Noe  
**Employer:** Westar Energy  
**Position:** Internal Auditor  
**Time in this position:** 2 years  
**Education:** B.S. Business Administration - Accounting

**What is your dream vacation?** I want to visit a zoo in all 50 states

**What is your favorite TV show?** Brain Games

**What book are you currently reading?** Profiles in Courage – John F. Kennedy

**What is your prized possession?** A necklace awarded from running a marathon in San Francisco. I use the term “ran” loosely; it took over five hours. But I made it!

**What do you try to avoid?** Traffic

**If you could have any job you wanted, what would it be?** Videographer for documentaries on nature’s greatest wonders

**If you could be present at any historical event, what would it be?** Landing on the moon with those one guys
What is your greatest accomplishment?  I tried a recipe from Pinterest and it looked EXACTLY like the picture. Tasted awful, but...half the battle

What would you like to get around to doing when you have time?  Restore an old piece of furniture

What’s a pet peeve of yours?  When people rush me through revolving doors.  The fear is real.

**Updating Your IIA member Information:**

IIA members can keep their personal information up to date by visiting the IIA's website at www.theiia.org. In the upper right hand corner click on "Sign In". Once you are signed in, click on "Profile" and then "My Profile". Here you will be able to see your information and you can edit your personal information, address, and contact information by clicking on the "Edit" button. You can also update your contact preferences by clicking "My Preferences". If you need additional assistance, please contact Tony Risinger at Tony.Risinger@westarenergy.com.

**Newsletter Articles:**

Please contact Crystal Perez at cperez@capfed.com with any articles or suggestions for the newsletter. You may also know of special events (weddings, promotions, certifications, etc.) that you would like to put in the newsletter.

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

The Topeka chapter has had proven success because of the people who volunteer their time. Volunteering takes leadership, dedication, and effort. If you are interested in serving as an officer or board member for 2017-2018 to continue to enhance the internal audit community, please contact Tony Risinger at tony.risinger@westarenergy.com.

**IIA Learning:**

IIA Learning delivers innovative, quality, and convenient internal audit training, development, and networking for all skill levels. The flexible platforms focus on individual auditor training needs, as well as existing and emerging issues to ensure that internal auditors receive the knowledge and proficiency required to provide the highest level of auditing assurance, insight, and objectivity possible.

The IIA provides multiple learning opportunities:

1. **Seminars** are in-person and online; led by internal audit experts; cater to all auditor skill levels, topics, CPE needs and learning styles
2. **Webinars** are short, live presentations, led by internal audit industry professionals; focused on trending topics and addressing challenges.
3. **OnDemand** are convenient, self-paced, and cost effective courses on existing and emerging internal audit topics; accessible online, anytime.
4. **On-site Training** provides an in-person, group training; focused on specific learning need and facilitated by internal audit leaders at your location.
5. **Exam Prep** is a self-study or facilitator-led programs; combines reading materials with online study tools to prepare participants for certification exams.
6. **Executive Development** is strategic guidance and mentoring for internal audit executives; facilitated by executive-level leadership in an elite setting.

Visit the IIA website for registration and more information: [www.theiia.org/training](http://www.theiia.org/training)

**The next Members Only webinar:**

The Intersection of Audit and Compliance: A Symbiotic Relationship That Will Improve Your Compliance Program

**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017
**Time:** 12:00 Noon – 1:00 P.M. CST
The next eSeminars:

**Cybersecurity Auditing in an Unsecure World**
*Date:* February 6 - 15, 2017
*Time:* 1:00 P.M. – 4:20 P.M. CST

**Fundamentals of IT Auditing**
*Date:* February 7 - 16, 2017
*Time:* 4:00 P.M. – 7:20 P.M. CST

**Fundamentals of Internal Auditing**
*Date:* February 9, 2017
*Time:* 4:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. CST

**Assessing Risk: Ensuring Internal Audit’s Value**
*Date:* February 14 - 23, 2017
*Time:* 11:00 A.M. – 2:20 P.M. CST

**Enterprise Risk Management: Elements of the Process**
*Date:* February 15 - 24, 2017
*Time:* 1:00 P.M. – 4:20 P.M. CST

**Operational Auditing: Influencing Positive Change**
*Date:* March 6 - 15, 2017
*Time:* 1:00 P.M. – 4:20 P.M. CST

**Risk-based Auditing: A Value Add Proposition**
*Date:* March 20 - 29, 2017
*Time:* 1:00 P.M. – 4:20 P.M. CST

**Value-added Business Controls: The Right Way to Manage Risk**
*Date:* March 22 - 31, 2017
*Time:* 11:00 A.M. – 2:20 P.M. CST

**Bookstore:**

**THIS MONTH’S FEATURE:**

*Collaborative Auditing*

New from The IIA Research Foundation!
The role internal auditor’s play within their organizations continues to evolve, bringing new opportunities to consistently deliver value through quality work.

*Collaborative Auditing* provides guidance through an understanding that internal audit’s responsibility goes beyond individual audit engagements to ensuring that key stakeholders are left with the knowledge and tools they need to improve processes and address the root causes of issues within their organizations. With step-by-step guides, auditors will learn how to effectively use these tools. Auditors will gain: A more robust audit process focused on adding value in support of the organization’s key objectives. Tools and techniques to effectively engage management and build stronger professional relationships with key stakeholders. A framework for addressing the root cause of issues and providing high-impact insights to management. Maximize your competency by going beyond the traditional internal auditor’s role to use the audit process to engage and educate key stakeholders in managing their risk and meeting their objectives more effectively.

With hundreds of titles to choose from, including books, training materials, certification preparation, interactive programs, and more. The IIA Research foundation Bookstore is your one-stop shop for internal audit resources. All Bookstore products have been reviewed by internal auditors to guarantee a perfect fit. Check out the member’s only bookstore for resources for all your Internal Auditing needs. [IIA Bookstore](#).

**CONGRATULATION CORNER!**

The certified Internal Auditor (CIA) designation is the only globally accepted certification for internal auditors and remains the standard by which individuals demonstrate their competency and professionalism in the internal auditing field. Please join us in congratulating the following chapter members who recently obtained their CIA certification:

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Join us in congratulating for following individuals celebrating significant milestones as members of the...
IIA:

(None to Report This Month)

CIA's

(None to Report This Month)

WELCOME NEW IIA CHAPTER MEMBERS

The Topeka Chapter would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members who recently joined our group.

(None to Report This Month)

Ia Magazine Website:

The digital edition of Internal Auditor is a full replicated version of the magazine that delivers internal audit insights and news in a visually enhanced, user-friendly design with new topic sections, enhanced search, and much more!

Visit the website at www.internalauditor.org and check out the December 2016 issue featuring “It’s all in the delivery” where Jane Seago discusses a strategic approach to deliver a difficult message to the client.

The IIA’s CIA Learning System:

Certified Internal Auditor (CIA): Strengthen Your Core

As The IIA’s premier designation for more than 40 years, the CIA sets the standard for excellence within the profession. The CIA journey begins with a focus on The IIA’s International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing (Standards) and aspects of mandatory guidance under the IPPF. The journey continues with a focus on managing an internal audit project and culminates with concepts related to internal control, risk, governance, and technology. The CIA is a 3-part process for establishing your foundational core and starting point for career growth to:

- Distinguish you from your peers.
- Demonstrate your proficiency with internal staff and external clients.
- Develop your knowledge of best practices in the industry.
- Demonstrate your proficiency and professionalism.
- Lay a foundation for continued improvement and advancement.

Internal Audit Practitioner: A New First Stop on Your Road to Success

The Internal Audit Practitioner designation is a great way to quickly demonstrate your internal audit aptitude. You can earn this new designation through social badging by completing the Internal Audit Practitioner application and taking and passing the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) Part One exam. Candidates who have successfully completed the CIA Part One exam within the past 24 months are also eligible to apply.

Gleim Discount:

The Topeka IIA Chapter has partnered with Gleim to ensure your success on the CIA exam! Working together, we will provide you the necessary study tools to prepare for the success of passing the CIA exam. Gleim has been preparing candidates for success with their extensive self-study courses for the CIA exam for over 30 years! The Gleim Review System enables you to identify your weak areas so you know where to focus your efforts and GUARANTEES that you will pass each exam part the first time. Gleim’s goal is that you achieve success minimizing your frustration, cost, and time.

As a member of the chapter, you are eligible for 20% off all Gleim’s CIA Review materials, as well as Gleim CPE. To take advantage of the reduced prices and to place your order, log into the Members only section of the Chapters website.
Chapter Objectives

Service to Members
• Education Objective: Offer over 20 hours per year of affordable CPE with more than 60% rated as excellent.
• Certification Objective: Two members become certified annually.
• Social Objective: Members get to know other members from different organizations.

Service to Profession
• Membership Objective: Increase active membership.
• Professional Development Objective: Continue to offer affordable and quality training for auditors
• Academic Relations Objective: Promote the profession at Washburn University.

Chapter Administration
• Leadership Development Objective: Have 1 or 2 officers attend the Leadership Conference.
• Chapter Finance Objective: Have our lunch meeting fees cover the meeting expense; make additional income from the seminars to fund other activities (Leadership Conference, WU scholarship, WU student night).
• Communication and Participation Objective: Send out monthly newsletter and update website.

Chapter Achievement Program (CAP):

Do any of your internal audit activities earn Chapter Achievement Program (CAP) points for your Topeka Chapter of the IIA? What is CAP, why is it important and what can you do to help?

The Chapter Achievement Program (CAP) is designed by the Institute of Internal Auditors to guide chapters for developing quality programs and completing administrative duties to ensure it is meeting its obligations to its members. Points are awarded for each activity in accordance with the IIA guidelines. The goal is to provide valuable professional activities and development opportunities to our members and earn CAP points.

Certain activities that are conducted by member may qualify. Points are reported to the IIA on the 10th of each month covering three areas:

Service to Members: Attendance at monthly meetings, conferences and seminars, social events and new IIA certification.

Service to the Profession: Academic Relations; Chapter Scholarship Program, Student events held by the chapter. Advocacy; Junior Achievement Involvement, Building Awareness Champion Program, funding support for District advisors and District Representatives, Internal Audit Awareness month events, Host an Internal Audit event at work, Audit Channel TV submissions, Write exam questions for IIA certifications, Submit or Publish an article in the Internal Auditor magazine, participate on a non IIA sponsored or an IIA sponsored Quality Review Team, Chapter recognizes the member company for completing their QA.

Chapter Administration: Involves administrative reporting requirements to the IIA.
### CAP Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Minimum for Bronze</th>
<th>Chapter Points (to Date)</th>
<th>% of Minimum</th>
<th>Balance to Minimum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Service to Members</td>
<td>325.00</td>
<td>366.93</td>
<td>113%</td>
<td>Achieved!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Service to Profession</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>226.10</td>
<td>113%</td>
<td>Achieved!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Chapter Administration</td>
<td>160.00</td>
<td>218.00</td>
<td>136%</td>
<td>Achieved!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total from Master Template: | 811.02             |

**Current CAP Status:** Bronze

**Targets:**
- Bronze: 685.00
- Silver: 1,060.00
- Gold*: 1,560.00

*Platinum 10 consecutive years of Gold
*Ruby 10 consecutive years of Platinum
*Sapphire 15 consecutive years of Platinum
*Diamond 25 consecutive years of Platinum
### 2016 – 2017 Officers and Board of Governors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Tony Risinger</td>
<td>Westar Energy</td>
<td>(785)575-1968</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tony.risinger@westarenergy.com">tony.risinger@westarenergy.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st VP, Seminars</td>
<td>Annie Shaffer</td>
<td>Payless Shoes</td>
<td>(785) 559-6582</td>
<td><a href="mailto:annie.shaffer@payless.com">annie.shaffer@payless.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd VP, Programs</td>
<td>Marie Winter-Zima</td>
<td>Capitol Federal</td>
<td>(785) 231-6394</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mwinter-zima@capfed.com">mwinter-zima@capfed.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Elizabeth Salas</td>
<td>Westar Energy</td>
<td>(785) 575-8322</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elizabeth.salas@westarenergy.com">elizabeth.salas@westarenergy.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Autumn Franks</td>
<td>FHLBank</td>
<td>(785) 438-6009</td>
<td><a href="mailto:autumn.franks@fhlbtopeka.com">autumn.franks@fhlbtopeka.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Andrea Robben</td>
<td>BCBS</td>
<td>(785)291-8897</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andrea.robben@bcbsks.com">andrea.robben@bcbsks.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Robert Knott</td>
<td>Capitol Federal</td>
<td>(785) 231-6355</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rknot@capfed.com">rknot@capfed.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Shanae Gooden</td>
<td>Kansas Army National Guard</td>
<td>(785) 274-1265</td>
<td><a href="mailto:asgooden@gmail.com">asgooden@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Crystal Perez</td>
<td>Capitol Federal</td>
<td>(785) 231-6359</td>
<td>capfed.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Lori Miller</td>
<td>Capitol Federal</td>
<td>(785) 231-6396</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lmiller@capfed.com">lmiller@capfed.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Jenny Tryon</td>
<td>Westar Energy</td>
<td>(785) 575-1652</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jenny.tryon@westarenergy.com">jenny.tryon@westarenergy.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Julie Pennington</td>
<td>Legislative Post Audit</td>
<td>(785) 296-5817</td>
<td><a href="mailto:julie.pennington@lpa.ks.gov">julie.pennington@lpa.ks.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Richard McMullen</td>
<td>Kansas Department of Transportation</td>
<td>(785)-296-5399</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mcmullen@ksdot.org">mcmullen@ksdot.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Bob Stambaugh</td>
<td>BCBS</td>
<td>(785) 291-7647</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bob.stambaugh@bcbsks.com">bob.stambaugh@bcbsks.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit Committee</td>
<td>Mark Zillinger</td>
<td>BCBS</td>
<td>(785) 291-8236</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mark.zillinger@bcbsks.com">mark.zillinger@bcbsks.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
<td>Autumn Franks</td>
<td>FHLBank</td>
<td>(785) 438-6009</td>
<td><a href="mailto:autumn.franks@fhlbtopeka.com">autumn.franks@fhlbtopeka.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominating Committee</td>
<td>Tony Risinger</td>
<td>Westar Energy</td>
<td>(785)575-1968</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tony.risinger@westarenergy.com">tony.risinger@westarenergy.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media (Chapter Website and MMT Administrator)</td>
<td>Andrea Robben</td>
<td>BCBS</td>
<td>(785)291-8897</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andrea.robben@bcbsks.com">andrea.robben@bcbsks.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Relations</td>
<td>Reza Espahbodi</td>
<td>Washburn University</td>
<td>(785) 670-1010</td>
<td><a href="mailto:reza.espahbodi@washburn.edu">reza.espahbodi@washburn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Relations</td>
<td>Mary Hoover</td>
<td>DCF</td>
<td>(785) 296-2973</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mary.hoover@dcf.ks.gov">mary.hoover@dcf.ks.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>Crystal Perez</td>
<td>Capitol Federal</td>
<td>(785) 231-6359</td>
<td>capfed.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>Brenda Kindle (Chair)</td>
<td>FHLBank</td>
<td>(785) 438-6152</td>
<td>fhlbtopeka.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates</td>
<td>Bob Stambaugh</td>
<td>BCBS</td>
<td>(785) 291-7647</td>
<td>bcbsks.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Committee</td>
<td>Kyle Brewster</td>
<td>Stormont Vail</td>
<td>(785) 354-6931</td>
<td>stormontvail.org</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## TOPEKA IIA 2016-2017 SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Tuesday, February 07, 2017 | Lunch Meeting (1 CPE)  
Jana Merfen  
ERM Best Practices for implementation | Westar    |
| Tuesday, March 07, 2017   | Lunch Meeting (1 CPE)  
TBD  
10DSecurity Social Engineering | FHLB      |
| Tuesday, April 4, 2017      | Lunch Meeting (1 CPE)  
Shauna Woody Coussens  
Data Analytics | KDOT      |
| Friday, April 14, 2017     | Spring Seminar (8 CPE’s)  
Toby Groves  
Beyond the Checklist: Excellence in Auditing and Psychology for Auditors | Westar    |
| Tuesday, May 2, 2017       | Lunch Meeting (2 CPE)  
Diana Swanson  
Ethics | Cap Fed    |

*Locations are subject to change*
### Upcoming Events (Kansas City Chapter)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>SPONSORING CHAPTER</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/02/2017</td>
<td>8:30 – 12:30</td>
<td>Location: Union Station</td>
<td>Kansas City – Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>IIA Kansas City Chapter</td>
<td>Topic: Psychology for Auditors</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Speaker: Toby Groves</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/02/2017</td>
<td>8:30 – 12:30</td>
<td>Location: St Andrews Golf Club</td>
<td>Kansas City – Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>IIA Kansas City Chapter</td>
<td>Topic: Making Data Analysis Work</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Speaker: Jan Beckman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/06/2017</td>
<td>12:30 – 3:30</td>
<td>Location: Top Golf</td>
<td>Kansas City – Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>IIA Kansas City Chapter</td>
<td>Topic: Physical Security and Identity Theft</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Speaker: Gene Turner, Identity Theft Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/04/2017</td>
<td>12:30 – 4:30</td>
<td>Location: Ritz Charles</td>
<td>Kansas City – Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>IIA Kansas City Chapter</td>
<td>Topic: Auditing 3rd Party Risk</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Auditing Strategy and Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Speaker: RSM US</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bob Hirth, Senior Managing Director, Protiviti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/01/2017</td>
<td>8:00 – 12:00</td>
<td>Location: WWI Museum</td>
<td>Kansas City – Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>IIA Kansas City Chapter</td>
<td>Topic: Cyber “Hot Topics” and Cloud Security</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Speaker: Rob Rudloff, Rubin Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/03/2017</td>
<td>12:30 – 4:30</td>
<td>Location: Ritz Charles</td>
<td>Kansas City – Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>IIA Kansas City Chapter</td>
<td>Topic: White Collar Crime and Red Flags for Auditors</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Speaker: TBA</td>
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### Upcoming Events (Wichita Chapter)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SPONSORING CHAPTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 9, 2017</td>
<td>Wichita: Emprise Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30-1:00</td>
<td>Topic: Active Shooter: Preparedness and Response</td>
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<td>Speaker: Chuck Clanahan, Homeland Security</td>
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<td>March 9, 2017</td>
<td>Wichita: Emprise Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30-1:00</td>
<td>Topic: Hot Topics in Audit</td>
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<td>Speaker: Randall Steinert, Emprise Bank</td>
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3 Must-Have Traits for Career Success in Accounting

What personal traits lead to career success in the world of finance and accounting? Many people think burning the midnight oil is the best way to impress management and advance their careers. Interestingly, most employers don’t agree.

A recent Accountemps survey asked more than 2,200 CFOs what they think are the defining characteristics that lead to professional advancement. Only 7 percent of respondents cited working long hours as a success strategy. Too many hours can lead to a loss of productivity, mistakes and burnout.

So if a 50- or 60-hour workweek is unlikely to put you on the fast track to a promotion, what will? Here are the top three qualities that management prizes, according to our survey, as well as tips for integrating them into your own finance career:

1. Employee motivation to acquire new skills

Finance executives want to hire staff who are eager to add to their skill set. This was the top-ranked trait, chosen by 30 percent of survey respondents. Surprised? You shouldn’t be. Accounting technology, such as financial reporting in the cloud, is reshaping the industry. Companies can either keep up with the evolution or get left behind, which means they need curious employees who are enthusiastic to stay ahead of the curve.

**Keys to career success:** Embrace life-long learning. Take advantage of all the courses, lectures and brown-bag sessions your employer offers. But don’t stop there. You also should take responsibility for your own professional training, so research your options and submit proposals for continuing education courses and financial certifications. Your commitment to professional development not only helps make you a top-notch accountant, it also makes an impression on your supervisor, who keeps such things in mind when handing out promotions and merit raises.

2. Excellent interpersonal abilities

You can be the best data analyst in the finance world and still see your career stalled if you can’t explain what those numbers mean to stakeholders and executives. Additionally, many organizations are shifting toward business models that rely heavily on interdepartmental cooperation, which means you need to know how to interpret complicated technical information and concepts for colleagues who aren’t fluent in finance.

**Keys to career success:** The accountants who thrive in today’s environment are those who possess and demonstrate the following soft skills:

- **Listening.** When someone is talking to you, make eye contact and pay attention to their words. Similarly, don’t multitask during in-person meetings or conference calls.
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- **Collaboration.** Team players go further within a company. Work on building consensus from the group, getting buy-in from colleagues and stepping up to offer assistance.

- **Problem solving.** Unlike accounting practices, which you learn in school or on the job, problem solving involves creativity that you often must learn on your own. Brainstorm with others to clarify problems, think strategically and create solutions.

The higher up you go on the org chart, the wider spectrum of people you’ll interact with on a regular basis — from entry-level payroll clerks to the president of the board of directors. Your ability to work effectively with them all will determine how far you go in your career.

3. **Ability to adapt easily**

New regulatory legislation, industry-shifting technologies, mergers and other forces are constantly changing the business world. This means employers can’t afford to hire or promote staff members who can’t evolve with the times.

*Keys to career success:* Do you fear change or embrace it? Even though different routines and structures are stressful, the finance professional who thrives is the one who demonstrates flexibility. You can aid your career by quickly accepting new workplace or business realities, and then helping others make the transition.

It’d be nice if career success were like an Excel formula, where you enter certain variables and receive a satisfying sum. The path to professional fulfillment and advancement boils down to employee motivation — to keep learning, collaborating and adapting.

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