



AICPA Names Beryl H. Davis 2000 Outstanding CPA In Government

Beryl "Berri" H. Davis is the 2000 recipient of the AICPA Outstanding CPA in Government award. The award recognizes CPAs in government who have made significant contributions to increased efficiency and effectiveness of government organizations and to the growth and enhancement of the profession.

The award was presented by Ernest A. Almonte, chair of the AICPA Members in Government Committee, at the 2000 AICPA National Governmental Accounting and Auditing Update Conference on Aug. 16.

For more than 14 years, Ms. Davis has served the City of Orlando, Fla., as an executive manager in the position of Internal Audit Director. Reporting directly to the mayor, she has audit authority for a budget of \$522 million. Her contributions to city government include reorganizing government functions and restructuring operations to be more economical. Before serving as Internal Audit Director, Ms. Davis was the city's Treasurer. Her contributions during that three-year term include improving the city's investment portfolio, reducing accounts receivable, overseeing bond issues and directing real estate management. She also initiated the first major auction of surplus city property, eliminating the maintenance costs of excess property and producing significant revenue for the city.

The city government has benefited in many ways from her talents. A few years ago, she conceived of a community outreach program that would educate citizens on the way their city government works. The 10-week program, known as The Mayor's City Academy, reviews the operation of the city's core services, such as public safety and economic development. Ms. Davis designed and now manages the program, which takes place twice a year.

Ms. Davis was graduated from Emory University with a bachelor of arts in economics, and received her MBA in accounting from the University of Florida. Her professional experience includes working as accounting manager and senior finance specialist for Lockheed Martin and as a senior accountant for Ernst & Young. In 1990, the Governor of Florida appointed her to a four-year term on the Board of Accountancy. She served as the board's chairman in 1992. In 1994, *Accounting Today* recognized Ms. Davis as one of the nation's "100 Most Influential People in Accounting."

She now serves on the AICPA Professional Ethics Executive Committee and on the AICPA "Group of 100." From 1996 to 1999, she chaired the AICPA Members in Government Committee. She has served in leadership positions on many committees of the Florida Institute of CPAs. In 1997, she was elected president of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association.

Ms. Davis was chosen from six finalists by a distinguished panel of judges that included Costa Triantaphilidex, City Auditor, Fort Worth, Texas; Gerald A. Silva, City Auditor, San Jose, Calif.; and G. Michael "Mickey" Miller, CFO, City of Orlando, Fla. The other finalists were: Craig Clifford, Accounting and Budget Director, City of Scottsdale, Ariz.; J. Harry Weatherly, Jr. Director of Finance, Mecklenburg County Government, N.C.; Marcy Twyman, Finance Director/City Clerk, City of Guymon, Okla.; Kathy E. Hamilton, Director of Finance and Administration, Knox County

Government, Tenn.; Steven A. Marcotte, City Treasurer/Assistant Finance Director,
City of Tacoma, Wash.

To ensure proper recognition, beginning this year the award is being rotated among CPAs working in the three levels of government. In the award year 2000, only CPAs working in and contributing to local government were eligible for the award. In 2001, only CPAs working in and contributing to state government will be eligible and, in 2002, CPAs working in and contributing to federal government will be eligible. The nominee must have made his or her contributions to the level of government in which he or she is being nominated. The award is presented at the AICPA National Governmental Accounting and Auditing Update Conference.