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 100th 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
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.

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**About the Black CPA Centennial**

The Black CPA Centennial is a year-long celebration in recognition of the 100th 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 for the latest information and event details or to support the celebration.
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