

# November 2025 Newsletter

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The Association of  
Accountants and  
Financial Professionals  
in Business

## Muscle Shoals Chapter

Welcome to the latest news from the Muscle Shoals Chapter of the IMA! This newsletter brings you the latest updates and upcoming activities from both our chapter and the Athens State University Student Chapter. Whether you're a longtime member or newly connected, we're glad you're part of a community that values learning, leadership, and professional growth. Visit us on the web at <https://muscleshoals.imanet.org/home>.

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### Endowed Scholarship at Athens State University

We are proud to announce the creation of the *IMA Muscle Shoals Chapter Distinguished Accounting Scholarship* at Athens State University. This newly endowed scholarship is designed to support accounting students who demonstrate excellence, leadership, and active engagement through participation in the IMA Student Chapter (also known as the Athens State Accounting Club).



The scholarship was first awarded in fall 2025. It is open to both undergraduate and graduate accounting students who:

- Are enrolled in at least six credit hours,
- Are Accounting majors or enrolled in the Master of Accountancy program,
- Are members of the Athens State IMA Student Chapter (Accounting Club),
- Are in good academic standing,
- Have completed at least one semester at Athens State, with a preference for having completed at least six credit hours.

The Muscle Shoals Chapter also has endowed scholarships at the University of North

Alabama. Education is the foundation for a successful accounting career, and we are excited to expand support in our communities.



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## Athens State University IMA Student Chapter News



Our Athens State IMASC is making a difference this season by hosting its annual food drive to support our local communities. We're proud of their commitment to service and their dedication to helping others in need. The food drive is being held on the Athens State University campus and runs through November 18th.

In addition to their community service project, the IMASC also holds regular professional meetings to give students insight into different fields and professions in the area of accounting. The events don't qualify for CPE, but they are open to everyone. Students are especially encouraged to attend. The IMASC has the following upcoming events:

- November 13, 2025, 12pm - 1pm CT
  - Topic: Ethics, Presenters: Dr. Diann Hammon & Amanda Tillman
  - Zoom Link: <https://athens.zoom.us/j/83614607395>
- November 20, 2025, 12pm - 1pm CT
  - Topic: Alabama Society of CPAs; Presenter: Florence Holland, EdD, CDE
  - Zoom Link: <https://athens.zoom.us/j/82767356649>

You can read more about the great things the IMASC is up to in the latest edition of their newsletter: <https://www.athensedu.org/pdfs/cob/accounting/Spring-2025.pdf>.

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## **Welcome Our New Webmaster**

Michael Phillips joined the Board as Webmaster of the IMA Muscle Shoals Chapter in July 2025. He is an Assistant Professor of Accounting at Athens State University in Athens, AL. He has significant experience in both management and financial accounting across many different industries, including public accounting, manufacturing, government contracting, and insurance. He holds the Certified Fraud Examiners (CFE) professional credential. Michael serves as co-advisor of the Athens State University IMA Student Chapter. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, his awesome animals, traveling, and fitness.

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## **Welcome Our New Vice President of Professional Education**

Amanda Tillman joined the Board as Vice President of Professional Education of the IMA Muscle Shoals Chapter in October 2025. She is the Business Education Department Chairperson and Accounting Instructor at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, AL. She is an adjunct accounting instructor at Athens State and Missouri Baptist Universities. She completed the Master of Accountancy program at Athens State University, holds IMA's Certified Management Accountant (CMA) certification, has an MBA from Faulkner University, and a BS in Management from Athens State University. Her industry background is in logistics and banking. She lives in Falkville, AL, and enjoys spending time with her family.



## **Thank You to Our Recent Webinar Presenters**

The IMA Muscle Shoals Chapter routinely provides professional webinars offering CPE credit and covering topics that all professionals will find useful.

- On September 22nd, Dr. Kim Roberts of Athens State University provided a compelling webinar on Presentation Skills. She explained why, as a leader in an organization, it is critical to be able to deliver information to business stakeholders that impacts and influences hearts and minds. Dr. Roberts shared characteristics

of great presentations and the four-stage presentation model. The webinar welcomed over 100 attendees across the country and Canada.

- On October 21st, Dr. Diann Hammon (President) and Amanda Tillman (VP of Professional Education) hosted a webinar focused on the exciting topic of behavioral ethics titled "Mission Impossible: When Benchmarks Undermine Ethics." In the webinar, they used two case studies inspired by true events that involve individuals who encounter benchmarks that are unattainable without fraudulent behavior. The webinar attracted over 185 participants from across the country and Canada.

Thank you to the presenters for doing an amazing job and supporting our continuing professional education!



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## Watch For Upcoming Spring Webinars

The IMA Muscle Shoals Chapter has two webinars scheduled for the spring, and you're invited! The webinars are free to attend, eligible for CPE credit, and held online on Monday evenings at 6:00pm CT. Upcoming events include:

- February 9, 2026: "Doing Better With Less" - presented by Michael Phillips and Dr. Stacie Hughes. As change accelerates and expectations rise, understanding productivity has never been more important. This session explores evolving measures of productivity, the role of AI and automation, and strategies to enhance both personal and team performance in today's fast-paced world.
- March 2, 2026: "Tax Update" - presented by Sarah Roberts, CPA. Stay up to date on the latest federal tax developments with this timely session, which will review key changes and updates affecting individuals and businesses.

The details, including information to register and attend the sessions, will be posted on our website as the dates near: <https://muscleshoals.imanet.org/home>.



## 2025-2026 Officers and Directors

The following officers and directors are honored to serve and support our members in the year ahead:

President	Dr. Diann Hammon, CPA
President-Elect	Dr. John Berzett, CMA, CPA, CGMA
VP - Administration	Dr. Diann Hammon, CPA
VP - Professional Education	Amanda Tillman, CMA
Secretary	Camilla Strickland, CPA
Treasurer	Dr. Mark Lawrence, CMA, CFM, CPA
Director of CMA Programs	Dr. Stacie Hughes, CMA, CFM, CPA, CFE, CGMA, FCPA
VP - Engagement	Dr. John Berzett, CMA, CPA, CGMA
Director of Newsletter	Cory Butler, CPA, CMA Dr. Stacie Hughes, CMA, CFM, CPA, CFE, CGMA, FCPA
Director of Program & Roster	Cory Butler, CPA, CMA
Webmaster	Michael Phillips, CFE

