

# Meeting the business needs of the future



▶ Watch Kimberly at 2016.cimaglobal.com

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Ellison-Taylor".

**Kimberly Ellison-Taylor, CPA, CGMA**  
Chairman, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

I first decided to become an accountant when I was eight years old, after a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) gave a presentation at my school. I was captivated by the possibilities the profession offered. That decision set the course for my life and led me to build my career across both public and management accounting.

I have seen first hand the strength of those two parts of the profession working together and – as a Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) and a CPA – it is why I am so passionate about our new Association of International Certified Professional Accountants. It creates tremendous opportunities to meet the challenges of our complex, volatile times.

The first steps towards the Association were taken in 2011, when CIMA and the AICPA began a joint venture. This involved the two bodies elevating the performance of management accounting globally; creating the new CGMA designation; and working together on a broad programme of research.

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The success of that initial joint venture led the governing Councils of CIMA and the AICPA to approach their members with a proposal to deepen the relationship of the two organisations through the creation of a new Association. Under the proposal CIMA and the AICPA would continue to serve their members as separate bodies, while integrating their skills, knowledge and expertise. This would create a single body, with “one voice”, to deliver the strategic objectives of both organisations and advance management and public accounting worldwide.

In June 2016, members of both institutes voted to endorse the proposal. The result was clear – 89.7% in favour on the CIMA side, 86.5% on the AICPA. On a personal level, I was hugely pleased by this result. I am confident that our integrated efforts to increase resources for management accountants will provide enhanced member benefits for me individually and our profession as a whole.

Named the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants, the new body creates new avenues to champion our employability by expanding recognition of management accounting to employers around the world. It will provide enhanced tools and resources to help us sharpen our skillsets and stay ahead of changing business needs.

There will be new possibilities for us to collaborate and gain insight from a global network of members.

The new Association was formally created on 1 January 2017, and represents more than 650,000 current and next-generation accountancy professionals, across 177 countries.

I am so proud to be a part of this organisation and the accounting profession, which has brought so much opportunity to my life; I am sure it has for many of you too. Now it is our duty to extend these opportunities and more to the next generation. Together, we will create a stronger, more vibrant future for our profession.



**Association  
of International  
Certified Professional  
Accountants®**



**CIMA®**



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