

Patty Huling Award Acceptance Speech: CFE of the Year, 2011

I can't even begin to tell you how honored I am to be receiving this prestigious award today... I know there are many other dedicated CFE's who also deserve to be recognized... I am truly honored.

I would like to thank the membership for their confidence in electing me to serve on the Board. Serving the membership has been an honor and a pleasure. I have enjoyed it immensely!

I especially want to thank whoever nominated me... you have put me in awesome company and I am humbled by the comparison. Last year we recognized :

- Lindsey Perry - CFE of the Year for her work on the Veteran's administration fraud case
- Larry Adams -Lifetime achievement award for his many achievements and for starting the chapter, and
- Lois Folk, last year's Leadership Award winner, whose commitment to excellence inspired us all

I especially want to thank Lois Folk, who became my mentor and later, my friend... Lois asked me to run for a Board position four years ago... If she had not asked me to participate I would not be standing here today. I didn't think I had anything to offer the ACFE, but Lois's invitation challenged me to grow as a person. I realize now that we all have different gifts to share. We can all make a difference... Please don't wait for an invitation – take the initiative and volunteer to serve on things you believe in!

I also want to personally thank and recognize each of you for their courage to stand up for doing the right thing... Fraud Examiners are different than everyone else:

- We are willing to stand up and make waves...
- We are willing to publicly defend moral and ethical behavior , and as a result,
- We are not afraid to be unpopular...

That is the reason this award means so much to me – it was given to me by an organization which represents **Honesty and Integrity**.

In this age of moral decline, many may even see us as eccentric! For example: You might find yourself being greeted by your own coworkers like this –

“With a roll of their eyes... Oh no! Here she comes again.. all dressed in black! Who are you going to kill today?!? She is going to start using the “F” word again... FRAUDDDDDD, FFFFRAUDD!!!!!! “

Thank you ... Please enjoy the rest of our holiday event!