

## CFE of the Year Award Script (Erin Hager, Arizona Chapter President)

Similar to the national program, our chapter has instituted an annual award to recognize an outstanding CFE as Arizona Chapter CFE of the Year. This award is meant for a CFE who has demonstrated outstanding achievement based on contributions to the profession and the community.

Earlier this year, chapter members had the opportunity to submit nominees for the award. The Board of Directors was unanimous in approving the winner this year. They were also unanimous in deciding it would be more fun if we didn't actually tell the winner ahead of time... so this year, it will truly be a surprise to EVERYONE in the audience, including the winner. I bet that will make you all pay close attention!

Our winner this year has many years of experience with government compliance and enforcement issues. In her current role as contract compliance officer, she has discovered fraudulent credit card activity and referred it for prosecution, and has identified and recovered millions of dollars of contractual overcharges.

Our winner served on the chapter Board of Directors from June 2008 through August 2011, as a director and as secretary. She is very thorough and organized and always willing to help any member that needs it. She is reliable, thoughtful, and very good at looking at issues from all sides and angles. With this person in a meeting, you can be sure that no decisions are going to be rubber-stamped or pushed through without a lot of thought and discussion.

After her term was over she thought she was going to get a much-deserved break. But, she agreed to stay on for one more year to fill a vacancy in the Board of Directors. She has worked closely with transitioning board members to provide her guidance and expertise. During all of her years on the Board she has worked tirelessly and been instrumental in bringing many of our special events to life. She has brought us too many speakers to count. She is also a founding Scholarship Committee member in her 3rd year of service in this area.

I have a quote from one of the board members that sums it up very well: "She truly is a leader and role model as she promotes strong ethical values and education in all areas of fraud prevention and detection. Personally, she is not just a wealth of knowledge but a mentor in this

organization. She was one of the first members I came into contact with and has been my rock the entire way through. She is always willing to assist in activities, promotes community service in addition to this organization, offers knowledge and experience in the field of fraud and has truly been a wonderful friend.”

I think all of us who know her would agree with that description of our CFE of the Year, Patty Huling. I count myself lucky that I have been able to work with Patty, who is always thinking of others and of more ways that she can help. It is rare to find someone willing to work so hard, for so long, with such a positive attitude, and for so little recognition or appreciation. That’s why I am so happy to be able to recognize Patty Huling and all her contributions to the profession and to our chapter. Patty, please accept this award with our sincere thanks.