

The ATA honored Professor Anne Christensen of Montana State University with the Ray M. Sommerfeld Outstanding Educator Award at its August 5, 2013 luncheon in Anaheim, California. Ernst & Young has generously funded the award since its inception in 1993. The award is given in recognition of the recipient's career contributions to tax-related teaching, research and service.

Professor Christensen received her undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University in counseling and guidance and her Ph.D. in accounting and taxation from the University of Utah. Prior to joining the faculty at Montana State, she was a faculty member at Portland State University. Her research interests focus on the behavioral implications of tax as well as accounting education. She has published articles in journals such as the *Journal of the American Taxation Association*, *Advances in Taxation*, *Tax Notes*, *ATA Journal of Legal Tax Research*, *Issues in Accounting Education*, *Advances in Accounting Education*, *The Tax Advisor*, and *Taxation for Accountants*.

Professor Christensen has received not one, but two, university wide teaching awards: the President's Award for Excellence in Service Learning and the President's Excellence in Teaching Award. She also leads a well-respected VITA program in her region. One of the unique aspects of this program is that each spring break students volunteer to prepare tax returns in remote villages in Alaska. Although conditions are rustic, students return to campus raving about the experience. While many faculty aspire to give students transformative learning experiences, Anne Christensen actually is able to do so.

Having been honored with the ATA Service Award, perhaps Professor Christensen is best known for the depth and breadth of service she has given to tax education. She has served as the ATA's President, Vice President, Trustee (two terms), *JATA* Editorial Board member, Chair of six committees and a member of more than a dozen more. She also currently serves as the American Accounting Association's Board of Directors as its Vice President of Segments. Extraordinarily generous and humble, she tends to avoid the limelight. But, when the ATA has faced turbulent times, she has been one of its fiercest advocates. Her wisdom and guidance has shaped many important ATA initiatives that have enhanced the quality of tax education over the past decade. Her dedication to the profession as well as exceptional mentorship of colleagues and students make her a truly worthy recipient of the ATA's highest honor.