

## Letter from the President

Greetings,



*Dr. Helen L. Brown-Liburd  
Section President 2019-2020*

*I am looking forward to serving as the President of the Diversity Section for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. My goal as the President is to continue to advance diversity, inclusion, and equity in accounting education, practice, and academia. Diversity in the accounting profession has long been a much talked about topic, and through the efforts of organizations such as the PhD Project, we have made significant strides in diversifying academic institutions, and the American Accounting Association (AAA). However, despite these gains, there is still a need to fully diversify the accounting profession, academic institutions, and the accounting academy at the leadership level. Diversity at the leadership level is not only important in ensuring that accounting organizations and academic institutions reflect the diversity of the country; diversity is a matter of fairness.*

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*“Diversity at the leadership level is not only important in ensuring that accounting organizations and academic institutions reflect the diversity of the country; diversity is a matter of fairness. More diverse teams bring differing perspectives, and as a result the organization becomes stronger.”*

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*Therefore, it should be the goal of the Diversity Section, as well as our members, to work in collaboration with leadership at academic institutions, the accounting profession, and the AAA to advance diversity through inclusive thinking, mindful learning, and transformative dialogue.*

*Over fifteen years ago as a doctoral student, I remember many of us, both students and faculty, fought to ensure that the Diversity Section continued to exist as a section of the AAA. Together we worked diligently to solicit participants at the AAA annual meeting to support the Diversity Section by becoming members or renewing their membership. We won, and the Diversity Section still stands. We were able to demonstrate what was so aptly stated by one of our Past Presidents, Fred Jacobs, that the Diversity Section presents an opportunity to embrace a rich set of perspectives, inclusive of racial, cultural and ethnic differences. I want our members to get the fighting spirit back. I want our membership to continue to grow. As such, I would like to continue a membership initiative that we began last year. Last year we asked each member to sign up at least one new (or former) member. We fell short last year in reaching our goal. However, the leadership team is not deterred, and we are entering this year with a renewed focus. I am asking our members to join us in our efforts to fulfill the Section’s mission, to be present in the Section and take on leadership roles.*

*I am excited about what we can accomplish this year, and I look forward to the challenge! Please visit our website at <https://aaahq.org/div> for information about the Section and our upcoming events.*

*Warmest regards,*

*Helen L. Brown-Liburd*

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