

## **Important Information for Diversity Section Members – Please Read!**

### **Dear Diversity Section Colleagues,**

As part of our ongoing efforts to align with the broader vision and strategic direction of the American Accounting Association (AAA), we solicited feedback on the proposal to modify the name of the **Diversity (DIV) Section**. This proposal follows the AAA Board's recent approval of a new framework emphasizing **Engagement, Access, and Community**, which reflects the evolving priorities of the organization and its commitment to engaging members to ensure they have access to resources and opportunities that foster a thriving professional community.

The impetus for this change stems from a thoughtful review of how we can best position our section for long-term impact, ensuring that our name reflects the breadth of our mission while remaining consistent with AAA's overarching approach. The broader legal and political environment has also influenced this shift, as organizations across higher education and accreditation bodies (e.g., AACSB) are adapting language to maintain a strong commitment to inclusivity while proactively addressing potential challenges.

### **Engagement, Access, and Community Section Name Change – Why?**

For many years, our Section has been at the forefront of advancing meaningful conversations and scholarship on issues of access, equity, and community within accounting. The purpose of this proposed name change is to reflect the evolving nature of our work while reaffirming our commitment to expanding access to education, fostering engagement in research, and driving innovation that benefits our communities. This change underscores our continued focus on promoting inclusion and creating opportunities for collaboration and innovation in accounting education, practices and research.

This new name, **Engagement, Access, and Community Section**, aligns with our longstanding dedication to increasing community involvement, enhancing research accessibility, and promoting innovative solutions to societal challenges. By modifying the name, we hope to encourage even greater engagement from those involved in these vital areas.

### **Background Information**

The proposed name change reflects the broader vision and strategic direction of the American Accounting Association (AAA) in alignment with what the section will continue to represent in accounting education and research. We have always supported and promoted access for our members to participate in annual and midyear meetings which drive innovation in research and promotes community.

### **Justification for the Section Name Change**

The proposed name change to the **Engagement, Access, and Community Section** acknowledges an evolving environment and supports members' continued opportunities to participate and engage within this community. We will continue to foster an inclusive and innovative environment in which researchers and educators can collaborate and explore new ideas that promote access to opportunities and drive meaningful change.

### **Voting and Next Steps**

We are required to post the notice of our Section name change for 30 days. Therefore, voting for the Section name change will open mid-May, and will remain open until mid-June. Voting instructions will be sent out to Section members once voting is open, so you can cast your vote.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement as we move forward with this change.

Best regards,

Amelia Hart, President  
Carlos Jimenez-Angueira, President-Elect  
Veena Brown, Immediate Past President  
Elicia Cowins, Vice President Practice  
Porschia Nkansa, Treasurer  
Kayla Booker, Secretary  
Dana Hollie, Council Representative