



Dr. Alicia Eddington Poullard

Retired Business Professor and College Administrator

My journey began with DCCCD where I taught, primarily Business Communications and other business-related courses, for 20 yrs. While teaching, I was appointed by the College President to serve on several task forces across the district; collaborating with businesses desiring to increase diversity in their respective industry. After 25 years with the DCCCD, I joined SMU, where I served as Assistant Director for the Cox School of Business' Undergraduate Office, continuing to teach. I was also appointed to serve on the Student Conduct Board, addressing disciplinary issues. In my primary role I counseled students in Accounting, Finance and Financial Consulting, guiding them through successful completion of studies in that targeted discipline. I also served as Faculty Advisor for 3 Student Chapters at SMU (NABA, ALPFA, and Ascend), helping to get them established on campus and nationally recognized by their respective boards. The most rewarding aspect of this role was selecting and coaching students to compete in *Accounting Case Study Competitions at NABA National Conventions*, which was for many, their formal introduction to professionals in the accounting field. Due to successful execution, all were extended internship opportunities.

While teaching over the years, I encountered students needing that little push. It was clear that an ounce of encouragement received makes all the difference in the world. I discovered that once students found someone cares, it was the confidence needed to help motivate them to see their goals to completion. During the same time, I returned to school to pursue a Doctorate in Higher Education Administration and Leadership (focusing my dissertation on Successful Completion of Accounting in a Predominantly White University). While fulfilling a personal goal; it also served as an example to students whose excuses of being over-loaded were unfounded. Once I shared my schedule, they were quick to acknowledge there was no legitimate complaint. Students conveyed, they never felt short-changed with my delivery in the classroom; and were amazed at how I balanced it all with ease.

Having listened to the wows of Task force members from the accounting industry, and being enlightened of the vast opportunities the field affords, I guided numerous students down that path (including my own daughter, a CPA, CFE who has 15+ years in public accounting). Admittedly, I also used her experience in the accounting industry, to impress upon others the benefits to be derived from choosing a similar path.

I became aware of the ACAP Program my first week on the job, as it was being hosted by the SMU Cox School of Business, and I immediately got involved – continuing to volunteer services throughout my 13 yr. tenure at SMU. From seeing the passion that exuded from Nora and Odell, and recognizing the kindred spirit with regard to guiding others down the accounting pipeline, it was clear to me that my relationship with ACAP and NABA would be unending. What was not clear at the time, was that I would have the privilege to serve in a greater capacity. In fact, I view it as a marriage, on two fronts, as my husband (a CPA, MST who has 43 years in Government/public accounting) and I met at a NABA Convention in New Orleans.

The ability to research enabled me to keep up with trends in an evolving environment. The process of continually improving my accounting acumen allowed for relaying information to students. Still, even in retirement, I continue to strive to take on opportunities that enable me to have a role in aiding students as they prepare to function in society (thus my position as Executive Director of TCU ACAP), which gives me the satisfaction of knowing that the legacy I leave will have a positive impact on many generations that follow.