

# YOUNG PROFESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT

## **DEVON NEITZEL**

**JOB:** Tax Associate with Eide Bailly LLP in Des Moines

**HOMETOWN:** Waukee

**ALMA MATER:** University of Northern Iowa, B.A. and MAcc



**What can we find you doing when you're not at work?** You'll often find me relaxing on the couch binging TV and movies, spending time outside, going on joyrides with the windows down, or even just playing some video games. I find enjoyment in the "little things" in life.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** I am heavily involved in our Wealth Transition Services (WTS) and specialize in the preparation of gift, estate, and trust tax returns. In my current role, I focus primarily on tax compliance, with occasional involvement in tax planning. I foresee the tax industry, particularly within public accounting, shifting increasingly toward a consulting and financial planning model. This approach further emphasizes partnering with clients prior to decision-making and continuing to support them through compliance efforts post-decision. I'd like to see myself in that type of role. I take great satisfaction in helping clients achieve their personal objectives and in making those goals attainable. I believe that adopting a proactive, rather than reactive, approach provides substantial value.

**What motivates you the most?** I think it's my own internal drive to be the best that I can be while also living a fulfilling life. My family has always been my biggest supporters, and they want me to have a life and career that I can look back on with pride and enjoyment. At this point, I find that my chosen career allows me to professionally excel while also having a fulfilling life outside of work.

**What's your best piece of advice for a college student thinking about becoming a CPA?** If you have the ability to, take a semester off of college and intern. Tax, audit, consulting, financial accounting, etc.! It doesn't matter what the internship is, just taking that risk and diving into what your career would look like is the best way to decide whether pursuing an accounting degree and the CPA is the best for what you want out of your professional career.

**Your proudest professional accomplishment:** I'm really proud of passing both the CPA and CFP® exams. Both were incredibly tough in different ways. Going through both sets of exams really taught me a lot about myself, the way that I learn, and how I can do anything I set my mind to (very cheesy, but it's true!).

**What ways have you been involved in ISCPA and how have you benefited?** I first got involved with the Society back in 2019 when I started my degree at the UNI. After graduating, I really jumped in with both feet. Since then, I've been active in various early career development and leadership roles. I've spoken with high school students, and I've joined the ISCPA's LEAP, Legislation, and Taxation committees. I'm committed to staying deeply involved with the Society because I believe it's crucial for younger professionals to contribute to shaping the current professional landscape.

**What made you want to become a CPA?** When I started college, becoming a CPA was barely on my radar. As I got further into my degree, I realized how big of an opportunity (and challenge) being a CPA would provide. I was incredibly interested in the ability to access diverse roles ranging from auditing and tax to advisory/consulting and financial planning. It was a no-brainer that getting my CPA was one of the best ways to dive into a dynamic and rewarding career with endless possibilities for specialization and growth.

**What I wanted to be when I grew up:** I wanted to be a paleontologist (I was a BIG dinosaur kid). My grandpa owned a couple acres of land in Illinois and every time we would visit him, we would go down to the creek and look for fossils.

**What's one thing you can't make it through the day without?** Coffee. My coworkers can attest that I always have a cup (or two) on my desk.