

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT



VALERIE CULP

JOB: Adjunct accounting instructor at DMACC

HOMETOWN: Huxley

ALMA MATER: Iowa State University, B.S. and MAcc

What can we find you doing when you're not at work?

I currently teach one course at DMACC but spend most of my time hanging out with our one-year-old daughter, Frankie. We love going for walks, reading books and thrifting. I also enjoy making Instagram and TikTok content about our daily lives, and I am recently into making budgeting content.

What's one thing you can't make it through the day without? Chapstick

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? Although I am only in my first semester of teaching, I am absolutely loving it and would love to pursue it in a greater capacity once my child(ren) is older.

What (or who) motivates you the most? Having our daughter shifted my entire worldview in the best way, and I feel incredibly motivated to model living an intentional life for her.

What is your proudest professional accomplishment? Since I am currently teaching at a community college, many of my students have not yet decided on their major. Throughout this semester, I have successfully "converted" several of my students to accounting majors, which is so exciting since I know the doors a career in accounting has opened for me.

What ways have you been involved in ISCPA and how have they benefited you? I joined the Career Awareness and DEI Committees in 2021 after connecting with ISCPA's Director of Membership & Business Development, Lindsey Haley, at a conference. I have volunteered through numerous opportunities the society has presented me with, including reading to local elementary students the book, "When I Grow Up, I Want to Be an Accountant," presenting to high school and college students about what it means to be a CPA, and judging at the Iowa Collegiate FBLA State Leadership Conference, to name a few. Volunteering through ISCPA has given me the opportunity to give back to my community through promoting a profession with immense opportunity for students.

What made you want to become a CPA? My dad is a CPA, and I loved growing up with a parent who understood money. I took a financial literacy class in high school, and on the first day we took a pretest over all of the concepts we were going to cover that semester. I got the highest score in the class by a considerable amount. I realized what an advantage I had in life having grown up talking about personal finance and the economy.

What's your best piece of advice for a college student thinking about becoming a CPA? CPAs are in high demand, so it's important to clearly define what it is you are interested in and what you want out of your career so you can save your "yesses" for the opportunities that align with your personal and professional goals (travel, work/life balance, money, helping others, etc.).

Best concert I've been to: Last summer, I got to see Bruce Springsteen play in Edinburgh, Scotland at their outdoor rugby stadium along with 67,000 fans.

Favorite app: I was never on Facebook, but have since discovered Facebook groups, and I can't get enough. My current favorite Facebook groups are Iowa Critters, 1000 Hours Outside Official Group, and Ankeny Moms.

First job as a teen/youth: I worked at Casey's in high school. My favorite shift was Saturday mornings because I loved the energy (most people are in a good mood on Saturday mornings). I had a 50% employee discount on the food, so I'd always get a donut and a piece of breakfast pizza for like \$2, which I am sure contributed to my preference for this shift. For almost two years, I worked 5-8 every night, one 8-hour shift on Saturday, and one 8-hour shift on Sunday, which led me to earn the nickname of "Casey's girl" in my hometown.

What I wanted to be when I grew up: I grew up watching The Today Show almost every day, and always thought being a television anchor would be the coolest job. As a fun fact, I actually skipped walking at graduation for my MAcc because my husband and I wanted to plan a trip to NYC to visit The Today Show plaza during that time.