

Dear Colleagues,

I want to congratulate State Accounting Division on its recent success and all the ways in which the team is emerging as a leader in the public accounting space. Most significantly, the division recently earned the Government Finance Officers Association’s (GFOA) [Certificate of Achievement in Excellence in Financial Reporting](#). The certificate of Achievement is the GFOA’s foremost recognition for State Accounting organizations. To obtain this award, the division must complete the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report within six months of the end of the state’s fiscal year. Additionally, all included audit opinions must be “unmodified” or “clean” with no disclaimers or qualifications. Earning this recognition reflects years of progress by our accounting team toward financial excellence.

In further recognition of the Division’s recent success, at the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers Annual Conference, Phil participated in a panel called “From ACFR to LGIP: The Power of Automated Reporting and Process Improvement.” During this discussion, Phil commented on DAS’s experience improving and automating financial reports. He also moderated a panel called [“Emerging Trends in AI Policy in State Government.”](#) The key takeaway from this last panel was that efforts to regulate AI are largely driven by U.S. States, not the federal government. This means States should be looking at both their own approaches to responsible AI as well as their vendors’ approaches. Our leadership at the NASCT reflects the esteem and professionalism upon which the rest of the nation views our Accounting Division.

Congratulations to Phil Olsen, Ann Martinez, and everyone in the Accounting Division for their outstanding accomplishment! Kudos also to Phil for being recognized for his expertise by being invited to moderate and participate on panels!

Regards,

Jason Jackson

Director, Nebraska Department of Administrative Services