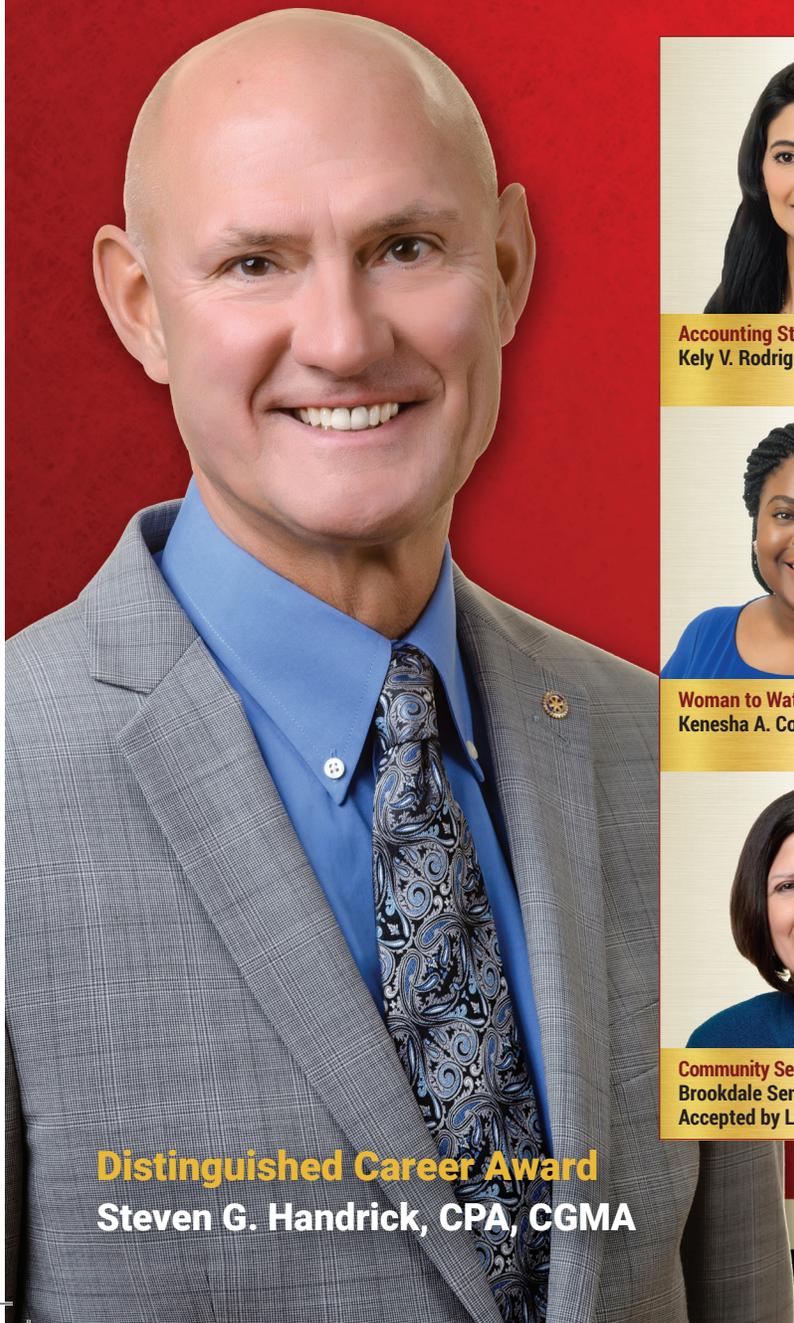


2018  
WICPA  
*Excellence*  
★ ★ ★  
★ ★ A W A R D S

*Recognizing accounting professionals for their  
leadership and dedication to excellence*



**Distinguished Career Award**  
Steven G. Handrick, CPA, CGMA



**Accounting Student Award**  
Kely V. Rodriguez



**Accounting Educator Award**  
Scott H. Dell, CPA, MBA, MAE



**Young Professional Award**  
Scott Blazek, CPA



**Woman to Watch Award**  
Kenesha A. Coleman, CPA, MPA



**CPA in Public Accounting Award**  
Wesley R. Jones, CPA, CGMA



**Community Service Award**  
Roberta A. Ward, CPA



**Community Service Award**  
Brookdale Senior Living, Inc.  
Accepted by Lucinda Baier, CPA



**Business & Management Award**  
Ben W. Pechan, CPA, CCIFP



**Diversity & Inclusion Impact Award**  
William B. Coleman, CPA, CGMA,  
CITP, MBA

Congratulations to the 2018 WICPA  
Excellence Award recipients!

We appreciate your dedication and  
contributions to the accounting profession  
and to the WICPA. Thank you for your  
commitment to excellence.

**William L. Komisar, CPA, JD**  
*2017–18 WICPA Board Chair*

# *Excellence Award Descriptions*

## **Accounting Student Award**

This award recognizes a college accounting student for their commitment to success in the accounting field. The recipient has demonstrated leadership skills, involvement in an accounting or business club and contributions to the community.

## **Accounting Educator Award**

This award recognizes an accounting or business educator for their contributions in academia and the accounting profession. The recipient has demonstrated innovative techniques in teaching and motivating students.

## **Young Professional Award**

This award recognizes an individual age 35 or under who serves as an emerging and dynamic leader in the accounting profession. The recipient has demonstrated involvement within the community, has been engaged in one or more professional organizations and has served as an example for others entering the profession.

## **Woman to Watch Award**

This award recognizes a female accounting professional. The recipient has demonstrated superior leadership, improvements in the workplace, significant contributions to the profession and mentorship of other professionals.

## **CPA in Public Accounting Award**

This award recognizes an individual working in public practice. The recipient has demonstrated significant achievements that have contributed to the success and growth of a firm.

## **Community Service Award (Individual)**

This award recognizes an individual for their dedication and commitment to community service activities at the local, regional or state level. The recipient has demonstrated leadership and positively impacted the community.

## **Community Service Award (Company)**

This award recognizes a company or firm for their community service contributions at the local, regional or state level. The recipient has initiated or increased their community service activities and reinforced the profession's reputation for commitment to the public good.

## **Business & Management Award**

This award recognizes an individual working in business and industry. The recipient has demonstrated blending information technology, financial decision making and progressive management techniques that have helped a business move forward.

## **Diversity & Inclusion Impact Award**

This award recognizes an individual who champions diversity and inclusiveness in the accounting profession. The recipient has demonstrated impactful contributions through company or firm initiatives, engagement in mentoring or coaching programs or promoted diversity initiatives through other organizations.

## **Distinguished Career Award**

This award recognizes an individual for their outstanding achievements and efforts throughout their career. The recipient has demonstrated exemplary leadership and ongoing commitment of service to advance the accounting profession, the WICPA and the community.



## *Accounting Student Award*

### **Kely V. Rodriguez**

**I** am thrilled and honored to receive this award. Winning this award validates what I've achieved to date, and it's an honor to be recognized by such a prestigious organization as the WICPA. I am passionate about my education, my field of studies and my desire to make a difference by helping others succeed. With the help of Professor Bo DeDeker and two other students, we created the first Accounting Club at UW-Stevens Point. I have been committed to growing the club and providing opportunities for students to explore the accounting field, network and learn from each other. This award is recognition that I'm on the right path. It encourages me to continue to do my best. I look forward to future opportunities to grow as a professional and to promote the accounting profession.

# *Accounting Educator Award*

## **Scott H. Dell, CPA, MBA, MAE**

**I** am truly humbled and honored to receive this award. The reality is, I'm no different than the thousands of other professional accounting educators committed to their students. What is different is that I was lucky enough to serve my students by facilitating their growth and learning, and that a student thought enough of my efforts to nominate me for this award. This student went above and beyond by taking the initiative to "make my day." Likewise, I hope I have been able make my students' days, months and years during the time I have had the privilege to see them develop. Through a process of continuous improvement and promoting extra involvement inside and outside the classroom experience, I continue to encourage my students to participate in activities that contribute to their personal and professional development. Initiatives include WICPA membership and activities, Financial Executive International participation, internship exposures, massive open online course opportunities, Toastmasters and Model United Nations activities, as well as classroom experiences that encourage community participation. This process contributes to student growth and ultimately makes for a better community. Thank you, WICPA, for offering an award that helps bring out the best in my students!





## *Young Professional Award*

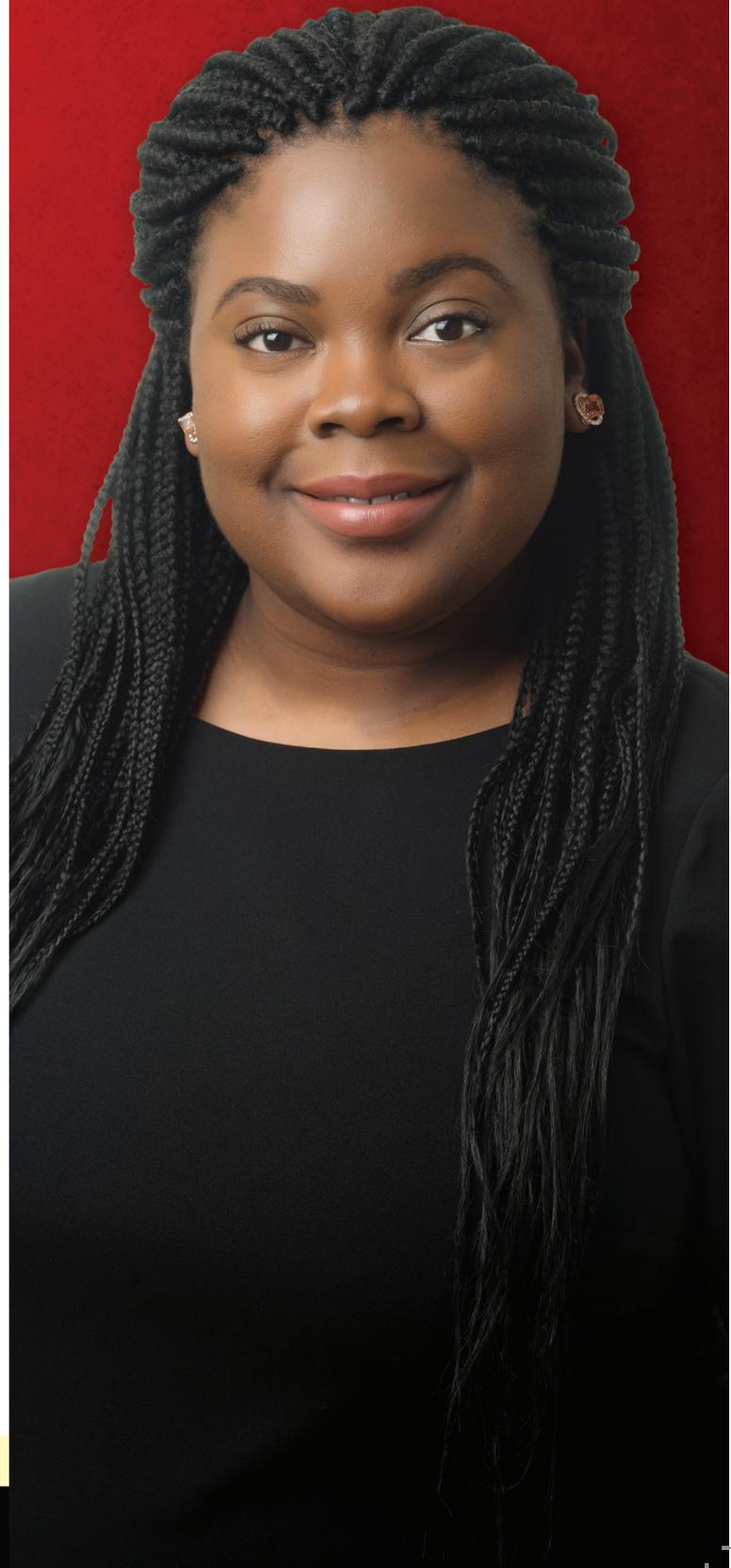
### **Scott Blazek, CPA**

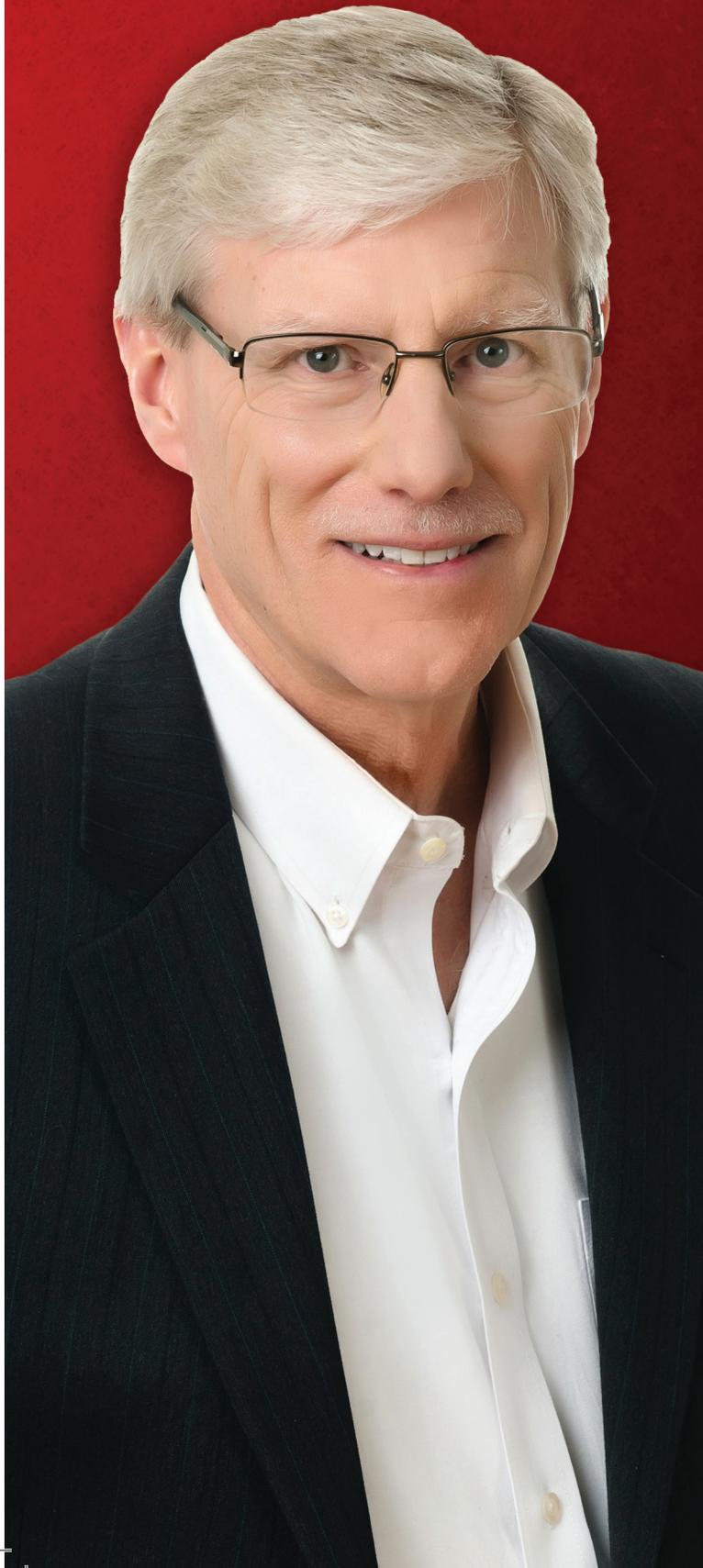
**R**eceiving this award is a great honor. It is great to be recognized for all the hard work I have done up until this point in my accounting career. My career in the accounting profession has been a relatively short one compared to others, as I served four and a half years in the United States Army Infantry prior to earning a degree in accounting. Since separating from the Army, I have used those leadership skills I had gained as an infantry team leader and applied them along the way. While in school, I served as president of Beta Alpha Psi. Now I serve on the board of directors of United Service Organizations (USO) of Wisconsin as their treasurer as a way to use my accounting skills to help serve Wisconsin men and women in the military. I am grateful I was given the opportunity so early in my career to begin giving back to the community, and it has forced me to grow my accounting skills even faster. I am very thankful to be receiving this award as recognition for my hard work over the past few years.

# *Woman to Watch Award*

## **Kenesha A. Coleman, CPA, MPA**

**I** am honored and proud to receive this award from the WICPA. Receiving this award is great recognition of my service and accomplishments and will serve as even greater motivation to continue working toward bigger goals in my future. I truly believe that “to whom much is given, much is expected.” The WICPA has uplifted and elevated me to be the accounting professional I am today, and I will work hard to do the same for accounting students and young professionals who come after me. I am proud to set an example for young accounting professionals and show them that hard work, giving back and being passionate about what you do leads to success.





## *CPA in Public Accounting Award*

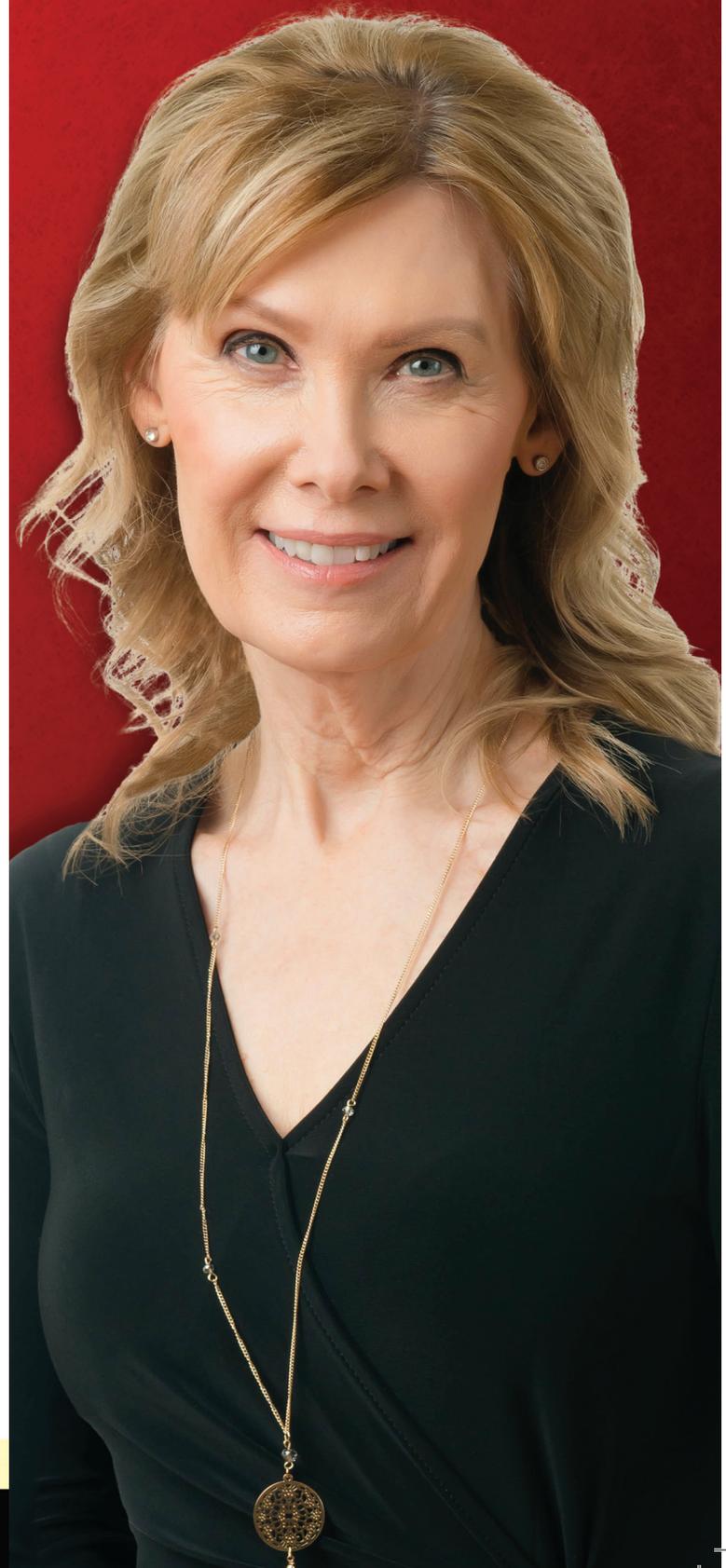
### **Wesley R. Jones, CPA, CGMA**

**R**eceiving this award is a surprise and an honor. I am humbled by the fact that someone submitted the nomination on my behalf. As the years have gone by, it has never been a goal to receive an award for what I was doing. This award demonstrates the support of the people around me, both at work and outside of the office. It recognizes the value of my dedication to the profession and to serving others. The education and counseling I received while attending UW-Whitewater, the knowledge I've gained from the professionals I have worked with at Winter, Kloman, Moter & Repp and previous firms, and the wisdom and guidance from my wife, family, friends and clients are all a part of this award. Public accounting is a great career for learning new things.

# *Community Service Award*

## **Roberta A. Ward, CPA**

**I** am humbled and honored to have been selected to receive this award. I'm grateful for the opportunities I've had to volunteer and for the privilege of serving alongside many amazing and talented volunteers. Whether my role was by appointment, election or just saying, "Yes," these experiences have been tremendously rewarding and have greatly enriched my life. In many instances, whether my responsibilities were financial or administrative, I've been fortunate to have been able to contribute in ways that brought the core values inherent in our CPA profession to the group. My current activities, which are predominantly focused on the WICPA Educational Foundation, allow me to continue to lend a hand and contribute to the advancement of the CPA profession.





## *Community Service Award*

**Brookdale Senior Living, Inc.**  
*Accepted by* **Lucinda Baier, CPA**

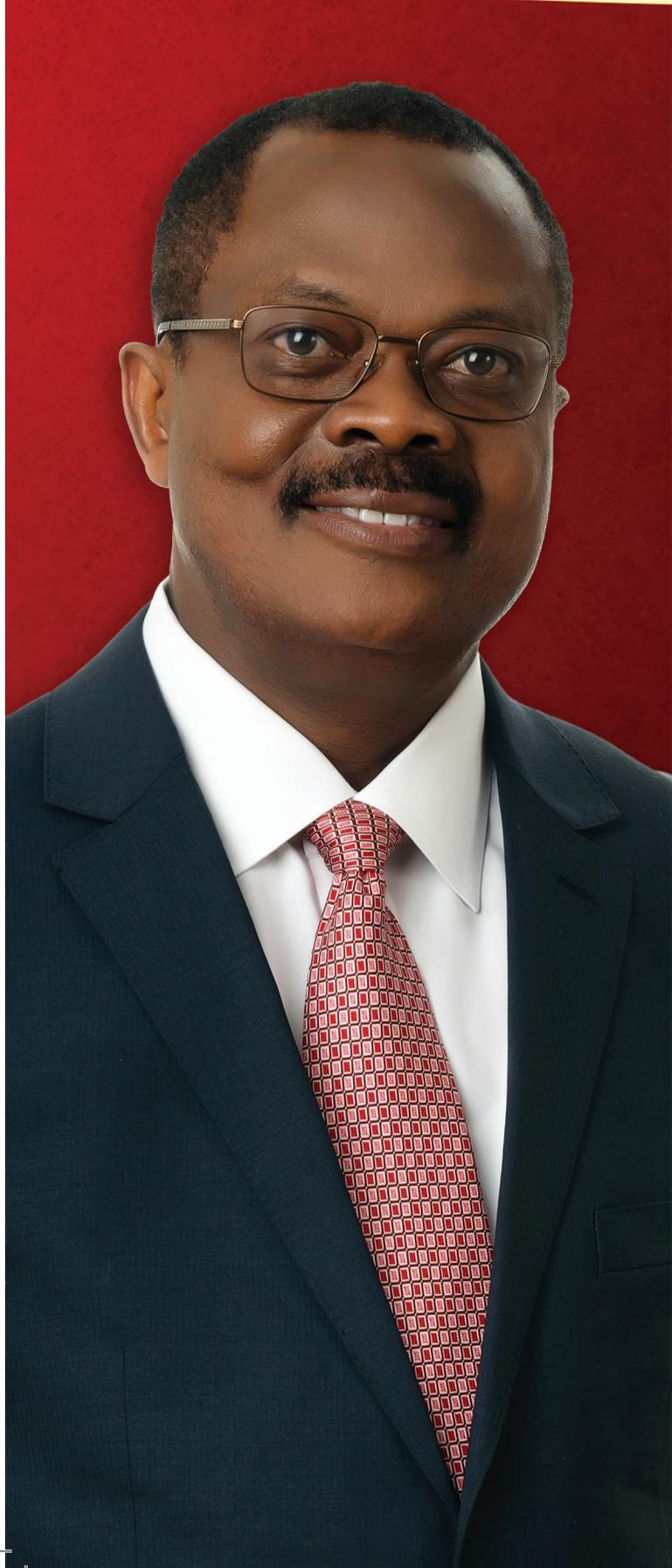
**T**he 78,000 associates at Brookdale Senior Living, Inc., are honored to be receiving this award. Brookdale's mission is to enrich the lives of those we serve with compassion, respect, excellence and integrity. In serving our residents, we see the real need for advanced research and aid for those with dementia, specifically Alzheimer's. This is where our partnership with the Alzheimer's Association begins, to bring hope to those we serve. Through support from our amazing staff and vendor partners, we are able to donate millions of dollars each year to the Alzheimer's Association. To be recognized for this contribution is truly an honor for each and every one of our associates. We are truly grateful for this award and will use it to encourage our continued commitment to aiding those who are in the greatest need.

# *Business & Management Award*

## **Ben W. Pechan, CPA, CCIFP**

**I**t's incredibly humbling and gratifying to be nominated for a WICPA Excellence Award by my peers. The accounting profession and the WICPA have provided limitless opportunities for me to continue to grow and prosper as a business professional. I am most proud of how I have been able to give back through professional association, university and community levels throughout my career. The networks and connections I've built through organizations like the WICPA have given me the opportunity to truly make an impact in the accounting community and in the continued advancement and evolution of our profession. To me, there is no more honorable or rewarding career. I'm proud to be amongst so many other deserving recipients and to be part of such a special fraternity.





## *Diversity & Inclusion Impact Award*

**William B. Coleman, CPA,  
CGMA, CITP, MBA**

**T**he Young Entrepreneur Scholars (YES) Program has been recognized for its contributions to our profession. YES is the infrastructure to assure that there is a pipeline of minority and disadvantaged students into the profession. Diversity and inclusion make a significant socioeconomic impact on us; it is gratifying that they are a strategic objective of our profession. The color of America is changing fast, and people of color are making impressive economic contributions. As a profession, we must engage and encourage inclusion. The rate of retirement poses an issue for us. Our clients today are demanding that we bring to the table “people who look like me.” Joe Sperstad, LeRoy Schmidt, Dennis Tomorsky and the WICPA Educational Foundation board deserve tremendous credit, as do Dr. Muriel Hawkins, UW-Oshkosh and UW-Milwaukee and our corporate sponsors. They have been excellent partners on this journey and have all been there for us. To my YES students, my colleagues at the Milwaukee Chapter of National Association of Black Accountants and my associates at Coleman & Williams, Ltd., you have been the foundation of this effort. Finally, Agatha: the love of my life, my friend and my rock, through the very long hours, working seven days a week, you have held our family together. I am thankful and grateful!

# *Distinguished Career Award*

## **Steven G. Handrick, CPA, CGMA**

I am humbled to be nominated for and selected to receive this award. This award is really the celebration of the success of all the individuals that believed in me during my career path. This includes my family—and in particular my wife, Mary—clients, friends, staff and fellow partners. Receiving this award means that in some form or fashion I have touched the lives of other human beings and hopefully made a positive impact on them. Being recognized by the WICPA and its members is the culmination of approximately 40 years of being a CPA: giving back to the WICPA, AICPA and my local community. Looking back over my career, there is no way I would have ever believed that when I walked through the doors that were opened to my family and me that they would have led me here, receiving the highest honor that the WICPA can bestow upon an individual. Being a CPA is more than three initials you can put behind your name. With that certification comes responsibility and high expectations. Being honored with this award means that I have fulfilled these requirements in the eyes of my peers. Thank you to the individual(s) who nominated me and for seeing me as someone who has done well in my profession throughout my career. Thank you also to the nomination committee, the WICPA board, staff and its members!





**Making a Difference Matters at Brookdale**

We're honored to receive the Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants (WICPA) **Community Service Award** for our work in supporting the Alzheimer's Association.

**Brookdale Senior Living Inc.**  
 6737 W Washington Street #2300  
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*Congratulations!*

**Ben Pechan, CFO**  
 Winner of the WICPA  
 Business & Management Award



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**Congratulations Wes Jones, Shareholder -**  
 recipient of the WICPA's  
**CPA in Public Accounting Excellence Award!**  
*Thank you Wes, for all you do and your many contributions to the success of WKMR.*

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**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**Scott Blazek**, senior associate at Wipfli, for being the recipient of the 2018 Young Professional Award!

**WIPFLI**  
 CPAs and Consultants  
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 414.431.9300  
[wipfli.com](http://wipfli.com)



CONGRATULATIONS  
**STEVE HANDRICK**

on receiving the **DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD.**

Thank you for the legacy you've imparted to Hawkins Ash CPAs.

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