As I was thinking about the message for this, my final letter as chair of your Ohio CPA Foundation, one simple phrase kept coming to mind—thank you.

Thank you, donors. And thank you, volunteers. Because of you, The Ohio CPA Foundation continued to further its mission of attracting the best and brightest talent in Ohio to the accounting profession. And in 2015-16, we didn’t take baby steps—we grew by leaps and bounds.

Through your support, we were able to expand the High School Accounting Career Day events to nine locations—up from just five the year before. These events, hosted on college campuses throughout Ohio, brought high school students and their teachers together for a day of learning and interacting with local CPAs. Students left with a better understanding of the variety of career opportunities in our profession. They left inspired to learn more about accounting careers and, for some, to follow in our footsteps.

Through your support, we were able to invite two more universities to participate in the Student Ambassador Program, bringing the program to 17 campuses in 2015-16. Across a variety of events and student outreach initiatives, our Student Ambassadors helped students understand how an accounting degree—and the CPA credential—can open doors to exciting and rewarding business careers.

Through your support, $56,000 in college scholarships were awarded to outstanding accounting majors throughout the state. And selecting those worthy recipients was no easy task. The volunteers who serve on the Scholarship Selection Committee spent countless hours poring over applications and essays, thoughtfully choosing recipients who demonstrate not only academic achievement, but leadership qualities essential to our profession.

Through your support, the Foundation’s Annual Fund Campaign exceeded its campaign goal and grew by nearly 20% over the previous year. This growth has allowed us to create plans for new and expanded programming that will be rolled out this year.

These are just a few of the ways The Ohio CPA Foundation made an impact in 2015-16, and it’s all because of you.

If you are a Foundation donor or volunteer—or both—I extend my utmost gratitude for supporting our efforts. You are the reason for the Foundation’s success and growth. I sincerely hope you will continue supporting and serving the Foundation and our profession in this way.

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If you are not a donor or volunteer, I encourage you to learn more today. I can attest to the personal and professional satisfaction of giving back to the profession that has given so much to me. Take a few minutes to read about how we are supporting the future of the CPA profession in this annual report, and then contact the Foundation’s dedicated staff to get involved.

Serving on The Ohio CPA Foundation’s Board of Trustees has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. Not only did it afford me the opportunity to serve and directly impact the profession I’m so proud to be a part of, but it also made me realize how passionate, generous and caring my fellow CPA colleagues truly are.

While my term as chair has come to a close, I look forward to watching The Ohio CPA Foundation continue to grow and finding new ways to stay involved. Together, we will build a strong and vibrant CPA profession for the future.

Sincerely,

Valerie Krueckeberg, CPA
Chair, 2015-2016
The Ohio CPA Foundation
By being a 1956 Legacy Society donor, I can help ensure that the future continues to be bright for CPAs that might not even be born today. And I think that’s a huge thank you that I can give to the profession for what I’ve been able to accomplish personally.

Bob Fay, CPA, Canton

Teaching thousands of Ohio high school students about accounting careers.

Many students, particularly minority students, decide on a college major in high school. High School Accounting Career Days capitalize on this important time by introducing accounting and the CPA credential at locations statewide. More than 650 students in 2015-16 heard from local CPAs, college accounting majors and professors during these half-day events.

“I think there’s a lot of stereotypes and I want to break those. I want to let people know what accounting really looks like. It’s not just a desk job.”

Abigail Dean, Student Ambassador, Hiram College

Helping Ohio students fund an accounting education.

An accounting education is expensive. The Ohio CPA Foundation helps students fund an accounting degree through a generous scholarship program. In the 2015-16 fiscal year, The Foundation awarded $61,000 in scholarships to more than 30 students out of hundreds of applicants.

“Getting this scholarship will help reduce the burden on my family and allow me to focus on schoolwork.”

Tanner Skelton, Xavier University

Guiding non-traditional students to the CPA credential.

Non-traditional students learn about accounting and the CPA credential during ASPIRE events, held at community colleges throughout Ohio. The program also helps students understand the path and steps necessary to progress from a two-year degree to a bachelor’s degree. Nearly 100 students are now armed with knowledge about the CPA exam and credential thanks to ASPIRE.

“ASPIRE gave me confidence in my decision to be an accounting major.”

Cuyahoga Community College student

In the fall of 2015, The Ohio CPA Foundation kicked off its legacy campaign with the introduction of the 1956 Legacy Society. The 1956 Legacy Society recognizes individuals who support the Foundation with a planned gift, solidifying their personal legacy alongside others who are following the same path in supporting the accounting profession now and in the future.

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Bob Fay, CPA, Canton
Thank you, FOUNDATION DONORS!

We are grateful for the many individuals, businesses and organizations that support the important work of The Ohio CPA Foundation. To see a list of donors, please visit www.ohiocpafoundation.org and click on Our Donors. Also, look for a special donor-recognition publication in CPA Voice in early 2017 that will recognize all of our 2016 Annual Fund Campaign donors. Together, we are making a difference!