

The crucial task of helping our profession become more future-ready might sound like a recent concept — one born in a complex era of great change and exponential technological advance.

It's not. The Maryland Association of CPAs has been helping accounting and finance professionals become future-ready for more than 20 years now.

## 1997 CPA VISION PROJECT

In 1997, MACPA Executive Director Tom Hood helped lead the AICPA's nationwide grassroots initiative to anticipate the future. That initiative became known as the CPA Vision Project and produced the profession's now-famous vision statement, "CPAs: Making Sense of a Changing and Complex World."

[Read more here.](#)

## UNIFORM ACCOUNTANCY ACT

Soon after, MACPA successfully advocated for the adoption of all of the principles of the UAA necessary to achieve substantial equivalency for license mobility and also allows for non-CPA ownership of firms by requiring that only a simple majority of firm owners be CPAs. The move was an early effort to address the increasing numbers and influence of non-CPAs in the accounting and finance world.

[Read more here.](#)

## TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Conversations about the evolution of the profession led the MACPA to launch the first of what would become annual series of "town hall"-style professional issues updates throughout the state. Held each spring and autumn, the meetings help members understand the trends that are impacting the profession and take advantage of the opportunities those trends provide CPAs.

## 1999 BUSINESS LEARNING INSTITUTE

In 1999, the MACPA created the Business Learning Institute in an effort to deliver the future-focused skills and education that CPAs will need to remain relevant in a changing and complex world. BLI is a wholly-owned subsidiary (Corporation) of the MACPA with no outside ownership interests.

[Read more here.](#)

## 2000 STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE

In 2000, the MACPA created a future-focused Structure and Governance Task Force. Made up of volunteers from the MACPA's general membership, the task force was charged by the Board of Directors with reviewing the association's structure and making recommendations for changes to align it with the vision and mission of the MACPA and the profession. The task force included an over-35 group and a under-35 group, which simultaneously addressed how to best structure the MACPA for the future. The recommendations, which were approved by the Board of Directors, required revisions to MACPA's bylaws, which were approved in 2002.

[Read more here.](#)

## 2011 CPA HORIZONS 2025 REPORT

In 2011, Hood again helped lead AICPA-organized nationwide conversations about the future of the profession. Those conversations resulted in CPA Horizons 2025 report, which found that the profession will, in the words of the Journal of Accountancy, "need to respond quickly and competitively to the shifting ground on political, economic, social, technological and regulatory fronts."

[Read more here.](#)

## 2016 ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL CPAs

In 2016, the MACPA's Board of Directors endorsed the AICPA's joint venture with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), which created the "Association of International Certified Professional Accountants." The new association is designed to enhance the relevance and vibrancy of the profession far into the future, and to respond to the needs of members working in corporations of all ownership structures and sizes.

[Read more here.](#)

## CGMA CREDENTIAL SUPPORT

Also in 2016, the MACPA's Board of Directors affirmed our support of the Chartered Global Management Accountant (or CGMA) credential by agreeing in principle to devote resources toward promoting the designation and recruiting CGMA exam candidates to become credential-holders. The MACPA also created a new membership category of "professional colleague" which could include non-CPA CGMAs.

[Read more here.](#)

## Proposed bylaw changes reflect evolving business environment

Helping our members and our profession become more future-ready has become baked into the MACPA's DNA, and now we're ready to take the next step.

The MACPA is proposing to update and simplify its bylaws to better reflect where the Association and the profession stand today and how they may evolve in the future. The proposed changes are designed to make the Association more relevant and anticipatory of future trends that might impact the profession, the Association, and its members. They also reflect the reality of enforcement of professional conduct rules, and they provide the MACPA's Board of Directors with greater flexibility with respect to committee formation and composition.

Specifically, the proposed changes would update language regarding membership requirements, clarifying the fact that non-CPAs may qualify for membership under certain circumstances and with approval from the Board of Directors.