



Supporting Our CMAs |

BY JOHN B. POLLARA, CMA

One of the best decisions I ever made in my career was to become a Certified Management Accountant (CMA®). The certification equipped me with a broad knowledge base and helped to hone and validate my management accounting skills. The Institute of

Management Accountants (IMA®) calls the CMA “the gold standard for accounting and finance professionals working inside organizations,” and I couldn’t agree more: CMAs earn higher salaries than their noncertified peers, must keep current with developments in the profession through continuing education, and pledge to adhere to a strict code of ethics.

That’s why I’m particularly proud of the diverse resources IMA offers to support our CMA candidates in their quest to achieve this critical certification. We all learn differently: Some of us like to study at home with a textbook, others enjoy taking online practice exams and “chatting” with colleagues, and still others prefer a traditional instructor-led course taught by a leading expert.

Further, some candidates are newly minted MBAs and still chock full of all the information they need to know—while others of us are, shall

we say, more mature and require a more intense review experience.

To address these different needs, IMA offers myriad options (just visit www.learncma.com to see the choices). Among the newest resources is an Online CMA Assessment Tool, which allows you to take a full practice test of any or all parts of the CMA exam—using retired questions, of course. The cost is minimal, and this tool is a great way to find out how prepared you are to take the exam.

Just last month, IMA also launched a new CMA Online Intensive Review Course, perfect for supplementing any self-study regimen, including IMA’s comprehensive learning tool, the CMA Learning System. This engaging multimedia self-study course provides an overview of all key topics on the CMA exam and uses the latest online technology, such as virtual discussion threads and “ask the CMA expert” features.

For those who prefer to learn in a formal classroom setting, IMA also works with about 30 colleges and universities across the U.S. that offer the CMA Learning System as instructor-led, noncredit courses through their professional development or continuing professional education departments. And we have built a strong and growing presence with many international review course providers.

While we all may learn differently, one thing all candidates share is the need to feel connected to others undergoing the same experience. That’s why I’m also very excited about our new online newsletter, *CMA Connection*, which is sent via e-mail to all CMAs and CMA candidates. This bi-monthly resource provides a study tip in each issue as well as articles that help CMAs better understand the value of their certification.

With the resources IMA now has to offer, I hope that, as a CMA candidate, you receive the kind of support, nurturing, and feedback you need to make it through the difficult but oh so worthwhile process of becoming a CMA.

As always, I welcome your comments at jpollara@imanager.org. ■