

*Message from the Chair*



# A Shared Vision |

**BY FREDERICK E. SCHEA, CMA, CFM, CPA**

As the new Chair of the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA®), I'm honored and thrilled to have the opportunity to give back to this organization that has given so much to me throughout my 30 years of membership. I've given considerable thought to what I'd most like to accomplish during my relatively brief tenure, and it's a vision for the next 12 months that I hope we all can share.

Among the goals I feel most passionate about is the need for IMA to better represent the full spectrum of management accounting today. This means providing membership resources and educational programs that address the profession's growing geographic and demographic diversity. I believe we must be ready to proactively respond to the changing composition of our workforce and the increasingly global way we do business, both within our individual organizations and as an association committed to the profession.

One way IMA aims to meet this challenge is through our Annual Conference, which just wrapped up in Tampa, Fla., a few weeks ago. This year's Conference offered inspiration

and education to hundreds of participants—including me—thanks to the impressive lineup of speakers and informative presenters. This event, our longest-running tradition now entering its 90th year, is just one example of how IMA delivers to management accountants the tools they need to do their jobs better and bring value to their organizations.

IMA also plays an important role by advocating for the appropriate balance of reason in regulation to help foster a healthy competitive climate for organizations worldwide. As IMA Chair, I pledge to continue our active participation with standards setters such as the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) and Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC)

and to provide comment on new accounting standards and to question old ones as the global business community changes.

While our community continues to change, one thing that has remained constant is our need to uphold the highest ethical standards. In the coming year, I'd like to recommit our membership and our profession to IMA's *Statement of Ethical Professional Practice*, which, in various forms, has been the benchmark by which the industry has measured itself for several decades. This Statement provides a set of values that all accountants can use to judge the appropriateness of any action—be it a simple accounting entry or a major strategic decision. I also want to remind members that we each bear a responsibility to promote our values standards to others in our organizations and to instill our standards in the minds of those who aspire to enter our profession.

At the pinnacle of that profession stands the Certified Management Accountant (CMA®), the certification that is most closely aligned with the work done by finance and accounting

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professionals inside organizations. Like many of you, I would like to see this certification gain in visibility and recognition, not only for those of us who hold it but because this is a crucial part of our strategy for developing IMA's value and identity.

I'm very much looking forward to my term as IMA Chair, especially during a time when I believe that, as an organization, we can truly make a difference. I'm always available to hear your comments and concerns, and I can be reached at [fschea@imanet.org](mailto:fschea@imanet.org). ■