

## NEWS RELEASE

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### THE AICPA, U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FORM ALLIANCE

**WASHINGTON (Nov. 1, 2007)** – The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the U.S. Small Business Administration signed a strategic alliance agreement giving CPAs greater access to the SBA’s programs and nationwide network. The alliance will help the SBA market and deliver its products and services through the AICPA’s network of 44,000 accounting firms nationwide.

“This is very important for CPAs,” said AICPA President and CEO Barry C. Melancon at a signing ceremony in Washington today. “This agreement that we are signing today really aligns the AICPA and SBA and makes mutual resources available between the SBA and the CPA profession.”

“We have an opportunity to make CPAs more aware of the resources of the SBA and serve as a conduit for clients to those resources,” Melancon said.

The strategic alliance agreement signed today will open pathways for CPAs to join the SBA in advocacy efforts for small businesses. It will help CPAs to help clients work more closely with the SBA’s network across America. CPAs will be able to draw more easily on SBA resources to help clients finance start-ups, expansions, and -- very importantly -- recover from natural disasters such as the recent fires in California. It will enable firms in their local areas to work more closely with SBA resource centers and offices for the benefit of their small business clients.

“We had 8 million new jobs created in our country in the last four years and two thirds of those have come from small businesses,” SBA Administrator Steven Preston said at a signing ceremony at the AICPA’s offices in Washington. “The small business community in this country is not only essential, it is the primary driving force in our economy.”

“To have a national partnership with a group like the AICPA is incredibly important because when a small business owner is looking for answers, when they are looking for someone to trust, they are really in your hands as CPAs,” Preston said. “In the end, it is in all of our best interests to give small businesses the right kind of support so they can continue to create jobs, drive our economy forward and innovate.”

More information is available at the SBA’s Website, [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

The American Institute of Certified Public ( [www.aicpa.org](http://www.aicpa.org) ) is the national, professional association of CPAs, with more than 350,000 members, including CPAs in business and industry, public practice, government, and education, student affiliates and international associates. It sets ethical standards for the profession and U.S. auditing standards for audits of private companies; federal, state and local governments; and not-for-profit organizations. It develops and grades the Uniform CPA Examination.

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The AICPA is the sponsor of a national public-education effort called 360 Degrees of Financial Literacy ([www.360financialliteracy.org](http://www.360financialliteracy.org)), designed to improve the financial understanding of Americans at all age levels. A related campaign, Feed the Pig ([www.feedthepig.org](http://www.feedthepig.org)), co-sponsored with the Ad Council, is designed to help Americans 25 – 34 save for long-term financial security. The AICPA maintains offices in New York; Washington, D.C.; Durham, N.C.; Ewing, NJ; and Lewisville, TX. Media representatives are invited to visit the AICPA Online Media Center at [www.aicpa.org/mediacenter](http://www.aicpa.org/mediacenter).

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