

NEWS RELEASE

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JIM METZLER HONORED BY THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AICPA Vice President Receives Financial Services Champion of the Year Award

NEW YORK (April 20, 2007) – Jim Metzler, Vice President of Small Firm Interests for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), has received the U.S. Small Business Administration’s New York District Office 2007 Financial Services Champion of the Year Award. Metzler was cited for his significant contributions in helping small businesses obtain the accounting services they need to succeed.

“We are very proud of Jim and his team,” said Barry C. Melancon, AICPA President and CEO. “Small businesses are the backbone of our capital market system. The country’s 45,000 CPA firms, the vast majority of which are small businesses themselves, have long been valued partners of America’s small business community.”

Metzler serves as the AICPA’s advocate for small firms on practice, regulatory, legislative and profession matters and is the chief liaison between the Institute and its member firms helping them deliver high-quality services to their clients. He also oversees the AICPA Private Companies Practice Section (PCPS) and the Management of an Accounting Practice (MAP) Committee along with specialized practice communities including personal financial planning, business valuation, information technology and forensic and litigation support.

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (www.aicpa.org) is the national, professional association of CPAs, with approximately 330,000 members, including CPAs in business and industry, public practice, government, and education. It sets ethical standards for the profession and U.S. auditing

standards for audits of private companies; federal, state and local governments; and non-profit organizations. It also develops and grades the Uniform CPA Examination. Headquartered in New York, the AICPA also maintains offices in Washington, D.C.; Durham, N.C.; and Lewisville, TX.

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