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Stafford School of Business Faculty Member Receives Top Award

TIFTON—Kathy Moreno, a certified public accountant and an assistant professor in the Stafford School of Business at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, received the 2015 Outstanding Accounting Educator Award from The Educational Foundation of The Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants, Inc.
The Outstanding Accounting Educator Award recognizes individuals who exhibit leadership in professional and civic organizations, as well as writing, speaking and curriculum development and research.

“I was driving my car when I got a (hands-free) phone call from Nikelle Klareich of the Georgia Society of CPAs to let me know that I had received the honor,” Moreno said. “I pulled over because I was so stunned. I thought I misunderstood what I had heard and asked her to repeat it. When I realized I had heard correctly, I was excited beyond words.”

Moreno received the award in Atlanta during the organization’s council meeting. She will be recognized again for her accomplishments in the field of accounting in February where she will be honored by her peers at the Georgia Association of Accounting Educators’ annual meeting.

“It is very humbling and a huge responsibility to receive this award,” Moreno said. “Personally, I know some of the other college professors who have received this award. They are amazing, accomplished individuals. I feel responsible to uphold their standards for teaching excellence and the standards of The Georgia Society of CPAs.”

Moreno began her own studies in the field of accounting simply because she was intrigued by the subject and wanted to learn more.

After receiving a Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition degree from the University of Florida in 1978, Moreno returned to the classroom to earn an Associate of Science in Business Administration in 1996 from ABAC and a Masters of Accountancy in 2000 from Valdosta State University (VSU).
While at VSU, she received an academic scholarship from the Valdosta Chapter of The Georgia Society of CPAs and an academic excellence award from The Educational Foundation.

“I was grateful to The Georgia Society of CPAs for that scholarship then, and I have been grateful ever since,” Moreno said. “In turn, I have tried to help others by recognizing their academic achievements.”

After graduation from VSU, Moreno accepted a position with Allen, Pritchett and Bassett, LLP as a staff accountant. In 2002, she became a licensed CPA and joined the ABAC faculty as a full-time instructor.

Moreno’s teaching style has been called interactive, entertaining, and fun. Her concern for the professional development of her students has earned her rave reviews, as indicated by her students’ evaluations who say she has a “unique ability to motivate” and consistently goes “out of her way to make sure her students are learning.”

Moreno’s involvement in the accounting profession goes beyond the classroom. She has published five editions of an accounting workbook that accompanies the classroom text, given a number of workshop presentations at national conferences, and served on multiple committees within the college.

In the Tifton community she serves as president-elect for the Board of Directors of the Tifton Museum of Arts and Heritage. Professionally she has been a member of The Georgia Association of Accounting Educators, where she served as an officer from 2008-2012, and has been a member of The Georgia Society of CPAs since 1998. She currently serves on the board of The Educational Foundation and holds the position of secretary.
Moreno was also the 2008 recipient of the Gaye Anderson Award of Excellence and the 2009 and 2014 recipient of the Faculty Presenter Award for the Alpha Beta Gamma Business Honors Society. At ABAC, she was nominated for the 2013 Advising Award and the 2014 Stafford School of Business Donaldson Teaching Award.