

Inside AICPA

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Practitioners lauded for exceptional pro bono, educational and professional accomplishments...Directory of member services



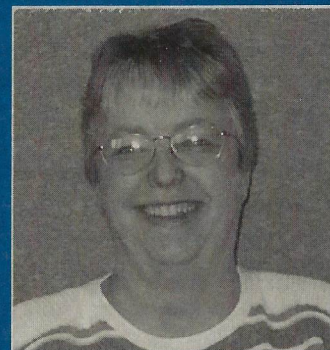
Montoya Recognized for Volunteer Work

Mary Montoya, CPA, received the 2003 AICPA Public Service Award in Washington, D.C., at the spring meeting of the Institute's governing council. A partner of Klanderud, Montoya, Wuebben & Feehan, PC, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Montoya has prepared tax returns, provided financial advice and performed a wide variety of other services for Native American prison inmates for more than 10 years. In addition, she served eight years on the South Dakota Board of Accountancy, became its first woman president and was on the board of directors of the South Dakota CPA Society. William F. Ezzell, chairman of the AICPA board of directors, presented the award. The annual prize recognizes AICPA members who have made significant contributions to their communities.



Holder Cited as Outstanding Educator

William W. Holder, CPA, DBA (right), accepted the AICPA 2003 Distinguished Achievement in Accounting Education Award at the spring council meeting. He has received numerous accolades for his educational and professional achievements, and in 2001 and 2002 *Accounting Today* named him one of the 100 most influential people in the accounting profession. Holder is the Ernst & Young Professor of Accounting at the University of Southern California's Leventhal School of Accounting and a member of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, as well as a former AICPA board member. William F. Ezzell, AICPA chairman (left), presented the award. Granted each year, the citation recognizes full-time accounting educators for excellence in teaching and national prominence in the accounting profession.



Mary Montoya, CPA



American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036-8775

**2002 AICPA
Public Service Award Winner**

Changing Hearts Through Compassion

CPA, spiritual advisor, compassionate advocate, tireless volunteer, friend — in all these roles, Mary Montoya has been changing hearts and lives of Native American inmates in South Dakota for over a decade. Mary's volunteering spirit was sparked by some harsh realities: twenty-three percent of South Dakotan inmates are Native Americans, but less than six percent of the state population comprises this ethnic group. Reaching out to this large and underserved community has become Mary's lifelong, remarkable commitment.

Mary first became involved by helping the Native American Council of Tribes, an inmate group at the South Dakota State Penitentiary, achieve 501(c)3 status. This effort was followed by attending prison powwows and purchasing supplies for religious ceremonies. These experiences brought Mary a keen awareness of the cultural and spiritual requirements of Native American inmates. She now spends 20 or more hours each week working with 450 Native American inmates in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Building bridges between Native American and white inmates is Mary's ultimate mission. She has demonstrated that providing opportunities for inmates to learn about and practice their unique customs and values has a long-lasting, positive effect. Inmates who embrace their "red road" cultural heritage do much better when they leave prison and are less likely to return.

Mary assists inmates in a variety of ways, from the expected activities of preparing tax returns and giving financial advice, to the unexpected cutting of 90 willow saplings to build sweat lodges. She has researched Native American religious policies for inmates at other prisons and helped to write similar policies for the South Dakota penal system. She also connects inmates to spiritual advisors outside the prison such as medicine men and tribal leaders, and makes materials, such as rocks, wood, sage, cloth and tobacco, available for ceremonial uses.

But for all inmates, Mary's most remarkable and life-changing contribution was her effort to transform a dingy prison auditorium into a lovely, light-filled chapel. Since 1950, inmates had used for worship a crumbling, drab space with soiled chairs and faded windows. Mary stepped in, beginning a fundraising program, contributing herself and bringing in clients whose skills moved the renovation along.

Now the Hope Chapel, as the prisoners call it, glows from seven multi-colored stained-glass windows designed and crafted by one of the inmates. Inmates

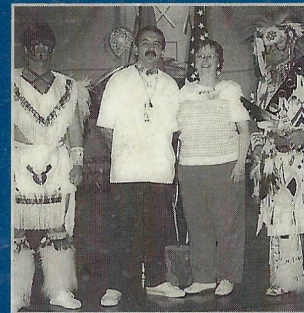
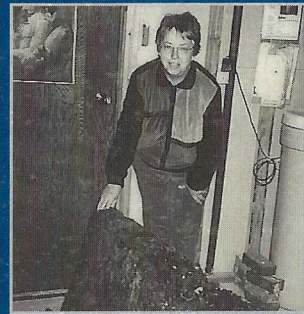
also carved 200 wood chairs and oak fixtures. Since the renovation, attendance at chapel services has increased dramatically. Inmates say they no longer feel they're in prison when they enter the warm and inviting space.

Surprised to find no books on Native American spirituality in the chapel library, Mary remedied this situation, purchasing 140 books herself and building the collection. She also began a library of religious books written in Spanish for the growing Hispanic population. Inmates come to the chapel to check out books, but Mary personally delivers texts to those in disciplinary segregation such as death row.

Mary also is involved with the Family Connection, a mission offering temporary shelter, emergency supplies, services and support to inmates' families. One of its programs is Hospitality House, a place for families and children to stay when visiting incarcerated loved ones. During the six years that Hospitality House has been helping families, inmates whose families have stayed there have not returned to prison after being released.

Helping paroled prisoners transition to life outside prison walls is another of Mary's commitments. She and her husband provide transportation for inmates to the parole office, driver's license bureau, and grocery stores, as well as help with paperwork, employment and housing.

Mary is truly committed to changing the hearts and lives of inmates. She makes spiritual and cultural options available for them and is a compassionate friend and steadfast, practical advisor. Perhaps the words of an inmate say it best about her tireless efforts. Mary once overheard an inmate in the hole ask who she was. Another inmate replied: "That is Mary. She treats us like human beings instead of animals." It is her dream that inmates leave prison with more hope and opportunity than when they entered.



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AWARD WINNER

Dedication earns Sioux Falls
woman national recognition.

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SATURDAY, FEB. 8, 2003 •

LIFE

Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Saturday, Feb. 8, 2003 3D

honor for helping inmates

presented in spring

Profile

WHO: Mary Montoya, 61, of
Sioux Falls.

WHAT: Will receive a national
public service award from the Amer-
ican Institute of Certified Public Ac-
countants in April.

BACKGROUND: Born Dec. 26,
1941, in Jefferson Barracks, Mo.,
where her father was stationed.
Moved to Platte in 1946 and to
Sioux Falls on July 4, 1950. Attend-
ed Creighton University in Omaha
and lived in Idaho for two years
when her first husband was in the
military. Was the fourth woman
CPA in South Dakota. First worked
part time for Lowell Klanderud; now
is a partner in Klanderud, Montoya,
Wuebben and Feehan on South Min-
nesota Avenue.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Parish fi-
nance council, Christ the King
Catholic Church; South Sioux Kiwa-
nis Club; serves on the state board
of accountancy, which handles
complaints against CPAs.

FAMILY: Husband, Leonard John-
son; one son, Tom Montoya, Rapid
City; one daughter, Teresa Mon-
toya, Sioux Falls; three grandchil-
dren; her parents, Fred and Vi Lar-
son, Sioux Falls.

accustomed to pulling over to the side
of the road."

They also have brought back buffalo
meat, filling their car's trunk with
wrapped packages.

Every spring, willow branches are cut



CHRISTOPHER GANNON / ARGUS LEADER

Mary Montoya is receiving a national award for her volunteer work. Her work has
included helping restore the chapel at the South Dakota State Penitentiary.

for the sweat lodges. Montoya attends
eight powwows a year, four in the main
facility and four at Jameson Annex.

Through her contact with the Native
American inmates, Montoya says she
has learned that their spirituality per-
meates every aspect of their lives.

"And in their culture, a person
obtains wealth by what they give away,
not by what they keep," says Montoya,
who also serves as an oblate, a person
associated with a religious community,
at Blue Cloud Abbey near Marvin.

The Rev. Dave Christenson, pastor of
St. Dymas Lutheran Church at the
penitentiary, says Montoya has a rap-
port with the inmates.

"I think they are equally as impressed
with just the love that she shows and
the willingness to work with them," he
says. "They respect her."

Says Montoya, "I have really been
very well treated by the inmates. I've
often said that I wish the bag boys who
take out my groceries were as polite."

Montoya also works with inmates'
families through the Family Connection
Hospitality House. She is president of
its board. Hospitality House gives
inmates' families a low-cost place to
stay when they come to Sioux Falls for
visits.

Reach Jill Callison at 331-2307
or jcalliso@argusleader.com.

Mary accepting 2002 AICPA Public Service Award



Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota Office of the Governor

Whereas, Mary Montoya is committed to bringing a "change of heart" to the inmates at the South Dakota State Penitentiary through making available spiritual and cultural choices by being their friend and advisor through her average 20 hours of volunteer work each week; and,

Whereas, Mary works with about 450 Native American inmates in Sioux Falls, and works with the Native American Council of Tribes and LDN Spiritual Group, as well as the nine reservations to provide and enhance opportunities for the Native American inmates to learn about and practice their unique customs and values; and,

Whereas, Mary assists inmates in a variety of ways from the expected activities of preparing tax returns and giving financial advice, to the unexpected projects of cutting 90 willow saplings to build sweat lodges, to collecting meat and hides for their ceremonies; and,

Whereas, Mary helped in the renovation and fundraising of the old auditorium into the "Hope Chapel", purchasing 140 books for the chapel library, and has been involved for over six years with the Family Connection, which provides emotional and financial support for the families of inmates at the Penitentiary; and,

Whereas, Mary helped to establish a standard bookkeeping system for the Catholic Diocese; and,

Whereas, Mary has received the South Dakota CPA Society Distinguished Service Award for her contributions to the accounting profession serving both the South Dakota CPA Society and the South Dakota Board of Accountancy for many years; and,

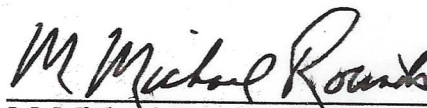
Whereas, Mary is the recipient of the South Dakota CPA Society Public Service Award and has been selected by the AICPA as the 2002 National Public Service Award winner and will receive her award before the AICPA Governing Council on April 29, 2003:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 29, 2003, as

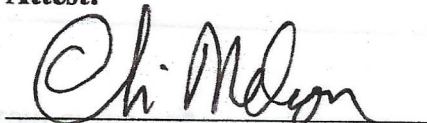
MARY MONTOKA DAY

in South Dakota, and I join her family, friends and colleagues in honoring Mary for this distinguished award.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

