

# NEW ACCOUNTANT<sup>®</sup>

## The Accounting Pilot and Bridge Project

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Thank you for reading this edition of New Accountant magazine. We are excited to tell you about an exciting initiative called the Accounting Pilot and Bridge Project.

The goal of the Accounting Pilot and Bridge Project is to have The College Board, which owns the rights to Advanced Placement (AP) courses, consider a proposal for adopting an AP Accounting course and exam. An AP Accounting course and exam will:

- build awareness and interest in students to consider or pursue accounting as a major in college and as a career
- attract top performing students who do not enroll in a current high school accounting course due to its perceived vocational or non-college-track status
- create an innovative course that is challenging and rigorous and more reflective of the accounting profession
- offer a course that provides students with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and develop the skills necessary to make informed business and personal finance decisions

In order for The College Board to consider a proposal to adopt an AP course, evidence must be presented that a pilot program (a course and exam) has been successfully implemented over a number of years with a significant number of teachers and students, and that higher education (collegiate schools of business) must be willing to consider granting credit to students who pass a qualifying exam.

The pilot course is a full-year course, based on approximately 90 – 100 contact hours with students from August/September through May/June. It is a *rigorous, college-level course* that emphasizes analytical and decision-making skills, and uses an integrated approach to teach financial accounting, managerial accounting, and financial statement analysis concepts. The course is structured so that students make business decisions and analyze the impact of those decisions on financial statements. As a result, students learn the critical role that accountants play in business.

To participate in the pilot course, teachers must attend an intensive three-day professional development workshop that offers subject-specific training on the content of the course, best practices for teaching accounting, and a forum for exchanging ideas about how to implement the course and exam. Now entering its fifth year, the Accounting Pilot and Bridge Project has trained approximately 450 teachers nationwide.

The Accounting Pilot and Bridge Project is administered on a volunteer basis by Dr. Dan Deines, CPA, Professor of Accountancy, Kansas State University, Joe Bittner, CPA, Instructor of Accounting, University of Connecticut, and Glenda Eichman, Manhattan (KS) High School. For more information, please email us: Dan ([ddeines@ksu.edu](mailto:ddeines@ksu.edu)), Joe ([Joseph.Bittner@business.uconn.edu](mailto:Joseph.Bittner@business.uconn.edu)), and Glenda ([geichman1@gmail.com](mailto:geichman1@gmail.com)).