

LOOK AT ME NOW!

With the help of members' donations, past recipients of TSCPA scholarships have moved on to new journeys. We will be publishing profiles of past scholarship recipients in each journal - both recent and not-so-recent. Find out what they've been up to and how TSCPA's scholarship program has made a difference for them.



Crystal Shields received TSCPA scholarships in 1999, 2000 and 2001 while she was a student at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville.

When asked about the impact of the scholarships she received, Shields responds, "Of course, the most important factor to any college student is getting the cash! But looking back, it definitely made me more aware of TSCPA and what it has to offer. It even prompted me to attend my first TSCPA meeting, courtesy of the Upper Cumberland Chapter."

Shields graduated in 2002 with her MBA. After working in public accounting for a few years, she became the controller for W Squared, which provides outsourcing services for finance and accounting, payroll, human resources and IT, in April 2009.

Currently, Shields is the president of the Nashville Chapter of TSCPA and serves on the TSCPA Council. She is also active in supporting her alma mater, attending Tech's Meet the Firm event each year to talk with the students.

"I encourage them to attend every networking event they possibly can, even starting their sophomore or junior year," she says. "The more often employers see you, the more likely it is that they will remember you. I tell them to be sure to join TSCPA as a student member, too. It is a great way to network with peers and potential employers."

As for those who contribute to TSCPA's scholarship fund through the Life Associate program, Shields says, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Had you not made a contribution to the Life Associates program, I would have definitely had a higher student loan balance. But more importantly, I might have missed the opportunity to become involved in such a great organization." ■

“I greatly appreciate TSCPA’s encouragement of accounting students and their constant support of the accounting profession.”