

Susan L. Wright, PhD, CPA, CMA

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Profile

A results-driven Senior Administrator with over thirty years of progressive experience in leading strategic planning, operational financial assessment, and technology innovations. Skilled at fostering a collaborative work environment and implementing innovative solutions for continuous improvement, cost reduction, and operational efficiencies. Proficient in data analysis, data automations, compliance assessment, risk mitigation, and project management, with a proven track record of successfully leading professional teams to achieve organizational goals. Demonstrates exceptional communication and interpersonal skills, with a commitment to achieving excellence in all areas of organizational operations.

Employment History

Audit Consultant and Non-Profit Specialist, Elliott Davis (3/2023 – present; consulting work)

Responsible for leading financial statement audits and government Single Audit engagements; creating the financial statements and notes to the financial statements; creating engagement budgets and monitoring staff progress; monitoring, enhancing, and ensuring engagement audit quality; managing, organizing, and delegating audit work to junior staff members and providing training, feedback, and reinforcement to support professional staff development. Developed specialized knowledge in performing government Single Audits for Federal grants. Competent test designer to evaluate regulatory compliance. Key role in analyzing and documenting internal controls and evaluating the strength and integrity of the control environment; responsible for assessing fraud and providing recommendations for improving controls to safeguard assets and mitigate fraud risk. Point of client contact for securing documentation, communicating recommendations for improving internal control environment, and managing the overall client relationship. Continual training in GAAP and GASB standards.

Assistant Dean, The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina (8/2021 – present)

Responsible for leading expert-level teams in the development of strategic program goals, objectives, and assessment planning; collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data for informing continuous improvement efforts and strategic alignment; developing, implementing, and evaluating the impact of planned improvements; communicating one-on-one, in teams, and to external stakeholders the results of periodic strategic performance using high-impact visualizations and statistical analysis; developing a culture of assessment and continuous improvement by encouraging the use of data to support strategic change at the program, major and course level.

- Rebuilt assessment plan for programs and major level assessment.
- Established and nurtured a growing culture of assessment.
- Created a collaborative environment for sharing and disseminating performance information.
- Designed and improved process maps and process flows for implementing assessment plan.
- Created high impact visualizations for sharing and disseminating performance information.
- Collaborated with university level personnel to integrate assessment measures throughout the organization.
- Successfully led and managed professional teams to improve assessment efforts, decision making, and reporting.
- Effective managing complex projects embedded with multiple deliverables for guiding improvements.
- Proficient in collecting, analyzing, and communicating crucial, complex data through creative, intuitive visualizations.
- Skilled at using data transformation, intelligence, and data cleansing tools to facilitate the analysis of large data sets.
- Skilled at creating executive level reports that convey complex information in concise, easy to consume formats.
- Exceptional technology and data analytics skills for managing assessment and creating data to support decision making.
- Cooperative and enthusiastic leadership style for supporting staff and professional growth.

Associate Professor of Accounting, The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina (8/2019 – present)

Develop, deliver, evaluate, and improve high impact, experiential student-centered learning experiences and degree programs. Learning experiences replicate project management systems and include the development and implementation of professional performance evaluations for hundreds of students designed to assess individual knowledge and develop leadership skills.

- Highly competent learning facilitator with expertise in accounting: governmental, financial, managerial, accounting information systems, technology, and analytics (Excel, Access, Power BI, Alteryx (ETL), UiPath (RPA), Tableau)
- Received multiple teaching excellence awards (4.7/5.0 average student evaluation of instruction).
- Innovative course designer (relevant, technology infused, experiential) and program developer.
- Advanced, case-based, curriculum designer for online and f-2-f learners, graduate, and undergraduate students.
- Skilled at creating cutting-edge learning experiences that utilize advanced technology, intelligence, and automation tools.
- Proficient in designing student leadership experiences (developed a multi-tiered system for accounting majors to develop leadership skills that involves coaching principle-level learners and then hiring and training their replacements).
- Enthusiastic and competent student advisor (curriculum and career).
- Obtained seventeen IMA CMA student scholarships (valued at \$17,000); provided coaching for exam.

Chair, The Citadel, Undergraduate Curriculum (8/2019 – 8/2021)

Led expert-level teams through a comprehensive reorganization of the curriculum and departmental structure; coordinated changes with administrative personnel to ensure high quality transition for student success; led approval processes for adopting curricular change at levels within and outside of the School of Business; improved quality of curricular documentation (agendas, minutes, supporting documentation); sensitive to the views and opinions of others for informing suggested improvements and building consensus among faculty and staff.

Other Relevant Experiences

Audit Senior, Burdick & Pearson CPAs, Oswego, NY (government sector), part-time, (2015 – 2019)

Responsible for leading financial statement and municipal government engagements; creating financial statements and notes to the financial statements; monitoring, enhancing, and ensuring engagement audit quality.

Deputy County Treasurer, County Accountant, St. Lawrence County, Canton, NY, (1995 – 1996)

Supervised, trained, and evaluated a staff of twelve account and payroll clerks. Responsible for preparing and approving journal entries, reconciling accounts, managing external audit engagements, creating the financial statements, completing, and submitting the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, and communicating financial results to the Board of Legislators. Led software transition from home-grown system to integrated ERP financial reporting and management system. Led budget development process and supported the Chief County Administrator in developing cost tracking and cost management systems. Responsible for managing long-term financing arrangements, cash management, and capital projects. Attended Board of Legislature meetings, Finance Committee meetings, and supplied Board members with ad-hoc financial reports for board meetings and other specialized purposes.

Other Experiences

Associate Professor, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY, (2014 – 2019)

Assistant Professor, Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY, (2003 – 2014)

Instructor, SUNY Canton, Canton, NY, (1998 – 2003)

Grants and Contracts Administrator, SUNY New Paltz, (1996 – 1998)

Additional list of experiences available upon request.

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Education

PhD in Management, Concentration in Finance and Organizational Change, 2011

- Carleton University, Ottawa Ontario, AACSB

MBA, Concentration in Accounting, 1995

- Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY, AACSB

BS, Accounting and Finance, 1986

- Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY, AACSB

Advanced Business Certificate in Accounting Analytics, *12 credit hours of advanced analytics, data automations, and data intelligence tools*, 2022.

- University of Connecticut, AACSB

Certifications

- CPA, SC
- CMA

Technology

- Microsoft Excel (power pivot tables, statistical, optimization and financial functions), Microsoft Access (database construction), Microsoft Power BI (reports, visualizations, DAX formulas), Microsoft Office (Teams, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access, Outlook)
- Tableau (visualizations)
- Alteryx Core Designer certification (data cleansing and transformation tool)
- UiPath – Robotic Process Automation – repetitive task automation
- Accounting ERP Software (QuickBooks)
- CaseWare – audit software
- XBRL Taxonomy – Compliance - Financial Data Transparency Act (FDTA)
- Zoom, Canvas, Blackboard

Professional Memberships

- Government Finance Officers Association (2012 - Present)
- South Carolina Association of CPAs (2023 – Present)
- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, AICPA (May 2017 - Present)
- American Accounting Association, AAA (January 2016 - Present)
- Institute of Management Accountants (1998 - Present)
- Beta Gamma Sigma (Honor Fraternity, 1995 - Present)
- Alpha Kappa Psi (2010 – Present)

Awards

- Col. Marion S. Lewis Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award, Baker School of Business. (May 2024).
- MBA Professor of the Year, 2023, Tommy and Victoria Baker School of Business. (April 2023).
- Baker School of Business, Excellence in Teaching Award, Baker School of Business. (May 2020).
- Outstanding Professorship Award, 2019, Students at SUNY Oswego. (April 25, 2019).
- Faculty Research Award, SUNY Oswego. (October 2018).
- NY State Resolution 5787, Teaching Leadership Award, State Senate. (June 12, 2014).
- MBA/MS Professor of the Year Award, Clarkson University. (May 2, 2014).

Peer-Reviewed Publications – Most Recent 4

Wright, S., Garas, S. (2024). A data analytics case study analyzing IRS SOI migration data using no code, low code technologies. *Journal of Accounting Education*.

Wright, S. L., Sharma, A., Nutt, S. R. (2024). An immersive learning experience utilizing essential technology in accounting education. *Journal of Business Cases and Applications*.

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- Bezjian, J., Godinez, J., Dean, B., Wright, S. L. (2023). Teaching Lewin's model on change management: Lessons from the Cool Runnings film. *Journal of Instructional Pedagogies*. <http://www.aabri.com/manuscripts/233637.pdf>
- Passyn, K., Wright, S. (2023). The impact of technology, engagement, and student readiness on student learning in blended synchronous environments. *Atlantic Marketing Journal*. <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/amj/vol12/iss2/8/>

Other Publications

- Wright, S. L. (2020). *Get the most out of a guest speaker visit*. <https://www.journalofaccountancy.com/newsletters/extra-credit/guest-speaker-visits.html>
- Nutt, S. R., Wright, S. (2020). *Ethics and the Social Contract* (May 2020 ed.). Montvale, NJ: <https://sfmagazine.com/>

Presentations – Most Recent 4

- Wright, S., Sharma, A., AABRI 2024 Savannah Conference, "Institutional Support and Faculty Readiness for Technology Infused Curriculum in Accounting Education," Academic and Business Research Institute, Savannah, GA, (March 2024).
- Wright, S., Sharma, A., SCAAE 2024 Annual Conference, "Institutional Support and Faculty Readiness for Technology Infused Curriculum in Accounting Education," SC Association of Accounting Educators, Columbia, SC, (February 24, 2024).
- Wright, S. L., SCAAE 2023 Annual Conference, "Teaching Emerging Technologies to 21st Century Learners: Robotic Process Automation, Data Automations, and High Impact Visualizations," SCAAE, Columbia, SC, (March 2023).
- Wright, S.L. (Author), American Accounting Association, Teaching and Learning Conference, "Using Alteryx to transform IRS Migration Data and create visualizations in Tableau," San Diego, CA, (July 2022)