

From:

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ASWAEF AND ACCOUNTEMPS ANNOUNCE WINNERS OF 2004 BALANCE AWARDS
Professionals, Businesses Honored for Commitment to Women in Finance

MCLEAN, VA -- The American Society of Women Accountants Educational Foundation (ASWAEF), the foundation to advance financial literacy, scholarships and life skills for women in accounting and related fields, and Accountemps, the world's first and largest temporary staffing service for accounting, finance and bookkeeping professionals, have announced the winners of the 2004 Balance Awards: Celebrating the Dimensions of Success™.

The Balance Awards, sponsored by Accountemps, recognize individual and company achievement in demonstrating a commitment to work/life balance and the concerns of women in the accounting and finance professions. Awards were presented to the recipients -- three individuals and three companies -- at the American Society of Women Accountant's (ASWA)

annual conference, a joint conference with the American Woman's Society of Certified Public Accountants (AWSCPA), held recently in Chicago, Ill.

"The 2004 Balance Awards celebrate the innovative and successful work/life initiatives that individuals and companies are implementing across the country," said Laura Skoff, executive director of ASWA. "ASWAEF recognizes these exemplary leaders in the accounting and finance professions who have made balancing career and life a priority."

"Accountemps is proud to sponsor the Balance Awards, which recognize the outstanding contributions of women and businesses to the fields of accounting and finance," said Andrew Denka, executive director of Accountemps.

Each year, three women receive individual awards. The President's Award winner is identified by the ASWA national president; the Achievement Award winner is nominated by an ASWA chapter; and the Woman of the Year Award winner is nominated by an individual ASWA member, chapter or organization. Businesses are also recognized for their contributions to the professional advancement of women in accounting and are nominated by an individual ASWA member, chapter or organization.

Below is a complete list of winners of the 2004 Balance Awards:

Woman of the Year Award:	Linda Harris, CPA
National President's Award:	Mary Jo McCann, CPA
Achievement Award:	Patricia A. Jones, CPA
Accounting Firm Awards:	
0-100 employees:	Mann. Weitz & Associates, LLC
101-500 employees:	Alpern Rosenthal
Company of the Year Award:	Bookminders

- Linda Harris, CPA, president of her own CPA firm, former president of the Billings, Mont., Chapter of ASWA, former ASWA regional director and current volunteer on several ASWA committees, is heavily involved in her community with participation in the local schools, hospitals, arts councils and more. At her firm, Linda is devoted to her staff and facilitates flexible work schedules to encourage work/life balance.
- Mary Jo McCann, CPA, was the first woman to pass the CPA exam in Kansas and the first woman partner of what is now known as Deloitte & Touche. She was a founding member of ASWA's Kansas City chapter, served as the chapter's second president and also served on ASWA's National Board.
- Patricia A. Jones, CPA, owner of a CPA firm, helps to certify female accountants working at non-audit firms by offering them audit experience. She encourages her employees to further their education and become certified, and she offers employees flexibility during working hours to take care of personal matters.
- Mann. Weitz & Associates LLC has a turnover rate of under five percent and its management implements policies to drive home its message that the company is an ideal place to pursue a career. The company also recognizes the importance of spouses' roles in the firm's growth and rewards employees with an all-expense paid weekend at a resort for employees and their spouses.
- Alpern Rosenthal has implemented many work/life balance programs and benefits, such as flextime, mentoring programs, dependent-care programs, paid pregnancy disability programs and more. Twenty-six percent of the firm's shareholders are women – a number that is larger than any firm in CPA Personnel Report's *2002 Annual Survey of Women in Public Accounting*.
- Bookminders provides outsourced accounting and information management services to small businesses and nonprofits. Bookminders strives to be a leader in the field of home-

based workers and has developed the necessary practices, policies, tools and systems needed to improve recruiting and retention of home-based workers.

ASWAEF was founded in 2004 to encourage and advance financial literacy, scholarships and life skills through programs of recognition, research and outreach for women in accounting and related fields.

Accountemps, the only specialized staffing firm nationally endorsed by ASWA, has more than 330 offices throughout North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, and offers online job search services at **www.accountemps.com**.

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