

IBM Partners with Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants to Train Accounting and Finance Professionals in AI and Data Science

IBM platform delivers hands-on, personalized cognitive class training to drive accuracy, efficiency and productivity

ARMONK, N.Y., May 18, 2017 /[PRNewswire](#)/ -- IBM (NYSE: [IBM](#)) and the [Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants](#) (MACPA) today announced a partnership to modernize the accounting profession and prepare accounting and finance professionals for future skills in artificial intelligence (AI), Big Data and cognitive computing.

IBM will provide an advanced cognitive and data skills platform to accounting professionals to more quickly acquire data science, business analytics and AI skills. By acquiring cognitive skills, accounting professionals can play a bigger role in guiding digital transformation within their organizations. The partnership will transform how accountants work, but also how they learn -- from in-person classes in traditional disciplines to hands-on cognitive learning that will provide skills to extract insight from the sea of data.

For example, accountants and finance professionals today focus on analyzing contracts to ensure business such as tax compliance and mergers runs effectively. However, by applying the power of cognitive technologies to these data-driven activities, accounting professionals free themselves to redeploy talent to higher value, more strategic business activities.

"An important part of creating a future for accounting and finance professionals is providing them the opportunity to gain the necessary growth skills to avoid disruption," said Tom Hood, CEO of the MACPA and the Business Learning Institute. "We've seen what IBM can do with automating data-driven businesses, and we are excited to advance our century-old mission of equipping members with the most advanced skills needed to be competitive in tomorrow's job market. We look forward to adding the IBM curriculum to our existing portfolio of future ready skills."

Interactive cognitive courses will be delivered through IBM [Big Data University](#) via the Business Learning Institute, the MACPA's learning and innovation subsidiary. Big Data University provides skills training to a community of nearly 700,000 global students and professionals. Classes will feature training in machine learning, deep learning and AI to help accounting professionals apply insights derived from cognitive computing to solve complex financial problems with improved, learned productivity.

"Data Science and AI are transforming every industry, providing business professionals with deeper and

more actionable insights, leading to better business decisions," said Willie Tejada, Chief Developer Advocate. "IBM is committed to providing students, professionals, and developers with the skills they need to leverage these new technologies."

This partnership, extends IBM's commitment to equip data scientists and developers with the educational resources they need. IBM recently announced partnerships with Galvanize and [TopCoder](#), as well as the introduction of an AI nanodegree program with Udacity to help developers establish a foundational understanding of AI.

Additionally, IBM offers the [IBM Learning Lab](#), which features more than 100 curated online courses and cognitive use cases from providers such as CodeAcademy, Coursera and Udacity. IBM [developerWorks](#) also offers how-to tutorials and courses on IBM tools and open standard technologies for all phases of the app development lifecycle.

About IBM

For more information on IBM, visit: <http://www.ibm.com/developer>

About the Maryland Association of CPAs

The Maryland Association of CPAs exists to help CPAs connect with each other in strategic ways, to protect our members' interests, and to help them achieve greater success. We provide the resources and services that CPAs need to excel in their profession. Since 1901, the MACPA has been a national leader in the CPA profession. Visit <http://www.MACPA.org>.

About the Business Learning Institute

The Business Learning Institute is the leading talent-development organization for CPAs, finance, and accounting professionals. It provides customized, competency-based curriculums and a portfolio of "success skills" and technical programs designed for the finance and accounting profession. Founded in 1999 by the Maryland Association of CPAs, the BLI is an innovation and learning center that facilitates the development and sharing of competencies and strategic knowledge required for leadership in today's rapidly changing business environment. For more information, visit <http://www.BLIonline.org>.

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