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IAPP Ramps Up Advocacy Efforts With New AP Alliance Program

Business Strategy Inc. Is First to Take the Challenge

Orlando, Fla. – Accounts payable departments are establishing themselves as revenue generators rather than cost centers as organizations worldwide tighten their spending and seek ways to become more efficient in today's economy. In support of their work, International Accounts Payable Professionals is stepping up its advocacy efforts and challenging partners in its new AP Alliance Program to do the same.

“Our ultimate goal is for CFOs, CEOs, controllers and others to recognize AP as a vital part of a corporation's success,” says Tom Bohn, CEO and executive director of IAPP and its sister organization, International Accounts Receivable Professionals. “Corporate executives need to know they can look to AP departments to find ways to cut wasteful spending and streamline operations. By showcasing the important role AP plays in today's economy, we elevate the standing of not only our IAPP members, but also the profession as a whole.”

The AP Alliance Program is designed to raise the bar on professionalism in accounts payable by providing a clearinghouse of information and expertise on industry issues and trends. The nonprofit association encourages its AP Alliance partners to:

- 1) Publicly adopt IAPP standards of professionalism that guide the way they conduct business.
- 2) Achieve Certified Accounts Payable Professional (CAPP) or Certified Accounts Payable Associate (CAPA) designations through the IAPP.
- 3) Enroll their departments in a group membership, which brings them extra benefits and discounted rates.
- 4) Become speakers or trainers in the profession through the IAPP.

Business Strategy Inc. of Grand Rapids, Mich., which specializes in procure-to-pay risk assessment, telecom optimization, and account payable automation solutions helped launch the program by becoming the first company to sign on as an AP Alliance partner. The firm worked with the IAPP to institute training sessions and on-site certification preparation classes, among other initiatives. As a result, all 21 members of BSI's field operations audit team took the CAPA exam and 95 percent passed. The IAPP's average pass rate is a little more than half.

"As of August 2009, we updated our requirement, which now entails that every member of our field operations audit staff holds either a CAPA or CAPP certification based on current level of responsibility," says Dan Geelhoed, president and chief operations officer for BSI. "Several of our supervisors and managers already held this and other certifications and will be required to maintain their IAPP certification in order to meet our company goals. ... We believe this not only provides growth for our associates but also clearly distinguishes us as the industry leader."

BSI has also committed to continued support of the IAPP by speaking at local chapters, hosting virtual chapters, webinars, and panel discussions at the annual forum. "We strongly believe in the IAPP and its mission to educate and expand the Accounts Payable profession".

More information about the AP Alliance Program is available at www.TheIAPP.org.

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About IAPP and IARP

International Accounts Payable Professionals is internationally recognized as the trustworthy guidance-setting association for the accounts payable profession. Serving members throughout the world, IAPP is the AP professional's global voice, chief advocate, recognized authority, acknowledged leader, and principal educator on all AP operational, regulatory, leadership, tax, control, and fraud-related topics. Together, the IAPP and its sister organization, International Accounts Receivable Professionals, have more than 5,000 members in 70 chapters throughout the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, and provide training, conferences, knowledge sharing, certification, online resources, *AP Matters* and *AR Matters* magazines, and more. For more information, visit www.TheIAPP.org and www.TheIARP.org.

About Business Strategy Inc.

Business Strategy Inc., founded in 1992, helps companies obtain immediate impact to their bottom line as well as improvements to their internal control processes by providing a procure-to-pay risk analysis and accounts payable automation solutions for corporate transactional processes. For more information, visit www.businessstrategy.com.