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NATP announces Tax Professional of the Year award winner

Penny Wade Smith, 18-year tax preparation veteran, nominated for exemplary industry service

APPLETON, Wis. (Aug. 2, 2021) – The National Association of Tax Professionals each year recognizes a tax professional, nominated by the rest of the membership, as its Tax Professional of the Year. This year’s winner is Penny Wade Smith.

Smith began preparing tax returns 18 years ago in 2004. She’s owned her own business since 2009. She joined NATP in 2006 and has been serving on the Kentucky chapter’s board of directors since 2012. Smith served as vice president from 2015 to 2016, and president from 2017 to 2021. She’s also been sharing her knowledge of tax preparation and industry expertise with other local professionals since 2015 as a chapter instructor.

“It was very exciting and very humbling,” Smith said of when she learned she was named Tax Professional of the Year. “I know there are a lot of well-deserving people who get this award and it’s the crown jewel of my professional life.”

Smith was nominated by her colleague and son in part for her involvement and contributions to the tax preparation community. She is a frequent volunteer speaker and has hosted free community seminars on tax topics such as tax strategies, estate planning, retirement planning, farm analysis and tax law changes. After a tornado wiped out the community her tax practice is in, Smith got even more involved by helping the neighborhood recover and rebuild. For example, her firm started a community garden on part of the property and donates the produce to neighbors.

“My advice for new preparers is to get involved with NATP,” Smith said. “It makes all the difference in the world as far as developing education. Not only with your colleagues and the discussions but you don’t know what you don’t know, and it is critical for developing your expertise in ways you don’t even think about.”

The Tax Professional of the Year award was presented at this year’s NATP [Taxposium](#) event on July 25 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada.

“This award is a great way to recognize those leaders in the tax preparation industry who go above and beyond not only serving their clients but making their community a better place,” said NATP’s Member Relations and Analytics Director Jennifer Van Elzen. “Penny has been part of NATP for a number of years now in many different capacities, and it’s wonderful to see her get the recognition she deserves.”



(Pictured: Penny Wade Smith, NATP Tax Professional of the Year – 2022)

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About NATP: The National Association of Tax Professionals (NATP) is the largest association dedicated to equipping tax professionals with the resources, connections and education they need to provide the highest level of service to their clients. 23,000 members rely on NATP to deliver professional connections, content expertise and advocacy that provides them with the support they need to best serve their clients. The NATP headquarters is located in Appleton, WI. To learn more, visit www.natptax.com.