



Business News Release

For Immediate Release

Date: January 26, 2011

RE: Annette R. Benson, CPA Earns Certified Fraud Examiners Designation

WILLMAR – We are pleased to announce that **Annette R. Benson**, Certified Public Accountant and Partner, has been awarded her Certified Fraud Examiners (CFE) designation. A CFE is a leader in the anti-fraud community—noted as a specialist in the prevention and deterrence of fraud. They represent the highest standards held by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) and possess expertise in all aspects of the anti-fraud profession. In order to become a CFE, Annette has met a stringent set of criteria and passed a rigorous exam administered by the ACFE.

She has also successfully met the ACFE's character, experience, and education requirements for the CFE credential, and has demonstrated knowledge in four areas critical to the fight against fraud: Fraudulent Financial Transactions, Criminology & Ethics, Legal Elements of Fraud and Fraud Investigation.

CFEs have the ability to: examine data and records to detect and trace fraudulent transactions; interview suspects to obtain information and confessions; write investigation reports, advise clients as to their findings and testify at trial; be well-versed in the law as it relates to fraud and fraud investigations; and understand the underlying factors that motivate individuals to commit fraud.

Annette has been an integral part at Conway, Deuth & Schmiesing, PLLP since 1983. Following graduation from the Accounting program at Ridgewater College, she began working as a Computer Operator. She progressed rapidly through the firm, serving as Bookkeeper, Internal Bookkeeper, Staff Accountant, Manager, Senior Manager, and in 1997 she was admitted as a Partner. She received her CPA certification from the Minnesota State Board of Accountancy in 1990. She practices in a variety of accounting and tax areas, and concentrates on auditing and small business consulting.

She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants (MNCPA) and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE). She is an active member at First Baptist Church of Willmar where she serves as a member of the Audit Committee and a leader of mission trips to Ukraine. She previously held positions of past Co-Chair of the Board of Trustees, and the Past Chair of the Endowment Committee. Annette is a member of the Willmar Lakes Rotary and has served as Past Treasurer. She is also an active volunteer and advocate with United Way of West Central Minnesota. Annette previously served on the Board of Directors for the Salvation Army and the Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce. Annette and her husband reside in Willmar.