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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

State Auditor Otto Named One of Most Influential Professionals in Government Auditing

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ST. PAUL (3/27/2014) – Minnesota State Auditor Rebecca Otto has been named one of the Most Influential Professionals in Government Auditing by the American Center for Government Auditing (ACGA). The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) established the ACGA to advance the professional practice of government auditing by advocating its value through timely and relevant thought leadership, communication, collaboration and education.

The Most Influential Professionals in Government Auditing recognizes professionals who have positively impacted the practice of auditing in the public sector. **"We applaud these individuals and are proud to honor them for their outstanding achievements,"** said IIA President and CEO Richard F. Chambers, CIA, CGAP, CCSA, CRMA. **"The positive influence they demonstrate is helping government auditing become recognized as an indispensable component of strong governance in the public sector."**

Minnesota State Auditor Otto, who is currently serving as President of the National State Auditors Association (NSAA), is being honored with a group that includes Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States; Jon T. Rymer, Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Defense; and Phyllis K. Fong, Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"I am truly honored to be named as one of the Most Influential Professionals in Government Auditing with such a distinguished group. This is a wonderful affirmation of the great work we're doing in Minnesota leading the country in watching over the taxpayers' money. I share this honor with the auditing professionals in the Office of the State Auditor, who work tirelessly to oversee more than \$20 billion spent annually by local governments in Minnesota."

In recognizing the Most Influential Professionals in Government Auditing, the ACGA honors a select group of professionals in local, state and national auditing. The criteria the ACGA uses in selecting the honorees included promoting the value of auditing in government; demonstrating courage and integrity necessary to face difficult situations; willingness to call out opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness in government operations, even when doing so may not be popular or may incur strong opposition from those in power; and influence in the profession based on the size, scope, and reach of the organization they represent.

The Office of the State Auditor is a constitutional office that is charged with overseeing more than \$20 billion spent annually by local governments in Minnesota. The Office of the State Auditor does this by performing audits of local government financial statements, and by reviewing documents, data, reports, and complaints reported to the Office. The financial information collected from local governments is analyzed and is the basis of statutory reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor.

Rebecca Otto is Minnesota's 18th State Auditor. A high-resolution official photo is available for download at http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto_hires.jpg. To learn more about State Auditor Otto, see <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=bio>.