



## Kara Darlington

CPA

Chief Executive Officer

Hanover, PA

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Kara assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on January 1, 2025. She is the fifth individual to hold this position in the firm's 62-year history and the first woman to lead the firm. Kara began her career at SEK in 1996 as an intern prior to her full-time hire in 1997 as a Staff Associate. Throughout the years, she has held several key leadership roles, including Director of Assurance & Advisory Services, leader of the Employee Benefit Plan Audit practice, Member-in-Charge of the Hanover office, and a member of Management Committee. With 30 years of experience, Kara has earned a reputation for her exceptional client service, strategic thinking, and dedication to mentoring future leaders within the firm. As CEO, she is focused on driving SEK's strategic growth and fostering a culture of innovation. Kara has been named to the 2026 Forbes Best-In-State CPAs list for Pennsylvania, recognizing her outstanding leadership and excellence in the accounting profession. She has also been honored as one of *Central Penn Business Journal's* 2026 CPBJ300, which highlights the region's most influential and respected leaders and change-makers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bHgNMXmzwg>

### Areas of Practice

- Employee Benefit Plan Audits
- Audits, Reviews & Compilations
- Peer Reviews

### Industries

- Nonprofit
- Private Sector Insurance Trusts
- Public Sector Insurance Cooperatives

### Community Involvement

- Roots for Boots – Treasurer, Board of Directors
- Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce - Member
- UPMC Hanover – Past Member of the Board of Directors, Past Professional Affairs Committee Member
- St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School – Past Member of the Board of Directors, Past Finance Committee Member, Past Advancement Committee Treasurer
- United Way of York County – Past Member of the Board of Directors
- Sweet Charities of Hanover – Past Member of the Board of Directors
- Hanover Symphony Orchestra – Past Member of the Board of Directors
- Annunciation of BVM Parish – Past Finance Committee Member

### Education

- B.S. Accounting – York College of Pennsylvania

## **Certifications**

- Certified Public Accountant – Pennsylvania

## **Professional Affiliations**

- American Institute of CPAs - Member
- CPA Firm Management Association - Member
- Pennsylvania Institute of CPAs - Member
- Allinial Global – Employee Benefit Plans Community of Practice