



HCCP Designee Spotlight: Thomas Stagg

Partner

Novogradac & Company

Thomas Stagg, partner at Novogradac & Company, has been in the industry for 16 years.

How has the HCCP designation impacted your career?

The HCCP designation lets people know that you are serious about your role in the industry. It shows that you have put the work to learn the nuts and bolts of the LIHTC industry.

How did you get into the LIHTC industry?

Like so many people in this industry, I ended up in this industry by chance. I interviewed with Novogradac for an accounting job when I was graduating with my degree in accounting. I really liked who I interviewed with, and at the time, that was more important to me than the industry Novogradac worked in. However, over the years, I have grown to love this industry. We get to work to try and solve one of the biggest issues our country is facing, and we get to see the tangible results of work when we go to open houses. Even after doing this for 16 years, I can't drive by a project that we worked on without getting excited and pointing it out to my wife.

What are your day-to-day responsibilities?

I review audit and tax returns for LIHTC properties, assist with deal structuring and compliance issues, and occasionally dive deeper than anyone should into income limits.

What helped with your success in the LIHTC industry?

At an early stage in my career, one of the partners I worked with taught me that knowing the right answer is good, but knowing where to research and find the right answer is even better. This has been a big part of my success, being willing to dig into the Internal Revenue Code, HUD Handbook and other authoritative literature so that I am not just repeating what I heard from others, but reading and forming my own opinions.

What's your favorite hobby?

These days my favorite hobby is spending time with my kids, from family bike rides to playing soccer in the back yard.