Announcing the Larzette Hale Scholarship in Accounting

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Dr. Larzette Hale served as the head of the School of Accountancy at USU for more than 13 years. Former Deloitte CEO Jim Quigley, one of the hundreds of students Dr. Hale influenced in her long career at USU, noted that it was in her accounting class that he learned what excellence and putting in a full effort really meant. Those were lessons he carried throughout his life.
In her honor, the Huntsman School has established the Larzette Hale Scholarship. We encourage you to honor this incredible woman and support this scholarship.

Larzette Hale lived an incredible life, filled with many firsts. She was the first African-American woman CPA to earn a PhD in Accounting in the US, first African-American female department head of accounting in the US, first African-American to serve as national president for Beta Alpha Psi, and first African-American appointed to the Utah Board of Regents. She also served as the president of the American Woman’s Society of CPAs.

All this from a woman who was placed in an Oklahoma orphanage at age 11, where, during her teenage years, she was mentored by the orphanage’s accountant, who inspired her to choose accounting as a profession. She graduated from Langston University when blacks were not allowed to enroll in Oklahoma’s state universities. She graduated summa cum laude with her B.S. degree in business administration and secondary education in 1937. When she sat for the CPA exam in 1951, she was told to sit in the back of the room and was not allowed to use the lunchroom. But none of that stopped her.