

Accounting firm getting new managing principal

Founder turning over reins of Brown Armstrong to `a young, Aggressive guy`



After 31 years, Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corp. is changing management. Founder and managing principal Peter Brown is stepping down and Andrew Paulden will head the firm as a managing principal.

“It’s time to turn over the reins to a young, aggressive guy,” said the 61-year-old Brown, who anticipates working another 10 years at the firm, focusing on client services.

“I’ll move back to what I really love,” he said.

Paulden has worked for the firm since 1985 and was a major contributor to the growth of the firm’s audit division.

“I want to build upon that success,” Paulden said.

He said his vision is to grow the corporation by 10 to 15 percent each year and become one of the top 100 firms in the country, based on gross revenue. He also wants to increase Brown Armstrong’s visibility in the marketplace through marketing; the company will target clients it perceives need good financial advisers.

Eventually, Paulden wants to increase technology and move the business into a paperless office.

Paulden graduated from Cal State Chico and became partner at the firm in 1994. His primary audit business focus is governmental and employee retirement system audits and accounting.

Today the firm serves four main industries: oil and gas, agriculture, health care and construction.

In its history, the firm has grown from four employees to seven owners and 58 more employees. It expanded its services from tax compliance and bookkeeping to include audit services, which makes up about half of the firm’s business. It has offices in Bakersfield and Shafter.



Owners besides Brown and Paulden are Burton Armstrong, Harvey McCown, Steven Starbuck, Aileen Keeter and Chris Thornburgh.

*Back row: Aileen Keeter, CPA, Andrew Paulden, CPA, Steven Starbuck, CPA and Harvey McCown, CPA
Front row: Peter Brown, CPA, Chris Thornburgh, CPA and Burton Armstrong, CPA*

