

Allen Brown, CFE Combats Fraud and Leads KATRINA RELIEF Effort

With federal relief funding estimated in the billions, the demand for anti-fraud experts is on the rise in Louisiana to combat potential post-Katrina corruption. Louisiana native Allen Brown has dedicated his career to catching fraudsters, including three sheriffs who ended up behind bars. Today, Brown, CFE, CPA, is training others to fight fraud in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Brown, whose hometown is Ferriday, Louisiana, recently led a training initiative in conjunction with the ACFE by conducting free anti-fraud training to auditors and state employees.

“The state of Louisiana is still suffering great economic loss due to the hurricanes. As part of the rebuilding process, there will be an inflow of large amounts of money,” explains Brown. “The governor, the legislature and state leadership at all levels have made a commitment that these funds will be audited to ensure that they are used properly.”

Brown, an adjunct ACFE faculty member, taught a two-day course, “Conducting Internal Investigations,” to help stave off fraud in the region.” The course provided the opportunity for state employees who hold certifications and

licenses to obtain required continuing professional education hours.

“We had 165 attendees from 42 different state agencies including the entire Inspector General’s Office and Inspector General Sharon Robinson.”



“Due to Katrina, training budgets have been eliminated, making it tough for professionals in the area to retain their certification.”



Top: Allen Brown teaches free anti-fraud training to Louisiana auditors and state employees. Bottom: A house is devastated by Hurricane Katrina that hit the Gulf Coast in late August of 2005.

“The response and gratitude expressed to me after the course was tremendous,” said Brown. “Some people have not only lost their homes, but also their jobs,” he explains. “Due to Katrina, training budgets have been eliminated, making it tough for professionals in the area to retain their certification.” This training and education was a positive step towards reinvigorating Louisiana’s economy.

A graduate of the University of Louisiana at Monroe, Brown currently serves as Director of Internal Audit for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the system had 49 campuses throughout the state.

“Today, nearly half of our students have been displaced because of Katrina,” Brown says. Five campuses were completely devastated.

“Our main goal today is get our students back, rebuild our facilities and reopen.” ■