

Connie Young, NaphCare, Inc.

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Connie Young didn't always want to go into accounting.

The graduate of Mississippi State University originally wanted to be an engineer. But after a semester, you could say her outlook on life changed a little.

"I decided that I would like to go under the traffic light and not know how it was changing," she said.

Still, she has always enjoyed math, so accounting was a natural fit for Young, who has been a natural fit herself at NaphCare Inc., which provides health care services for correctional facilities.

Young, who started out as a controller at the business, has been a driving force for the company, which has grown from a startup to a business that has clients across the country.

When Young joined the company, the business had 60 employees and less than \$5 million revenue. Today, it has more than 700 employees in 23 states and is approaching \$100 million in revenue.

Young, who was promoted to CFO in 1999, said it's been an incredible ride up.

"I've learned a lot over the last 14 years and I wouldn't trade it," Young said.

Young said her favorite thing about her job is not being limited to the traditional accounting role.

It's something that is becoming more common, she said, as CFOs find themselves working on more risk mitigation and legal issues than they once did, Young said.

It's both a challenge and an opportunity and Young is up to the task.

She heads up the company's division for federal prisons, which was created approximately seven years ago and is now one of the company's most successful sectors.

As she moves forward in her career, Young said she wants to help NaphCare continue its impressive stretch of growth, which, unfortunately, might not be too difficult in the correctional industry.

"I would like to see the company triple in growth," she said.