



Kadem Ramirez is the Chief Financial Officer for the Village of Wellington and has more than 10 years of experience in governmental finance. She oversees the Village's accounting operations, the preparation of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), while leading initiatives focused on process improvement, operational efficiency, and financial transparency.

Kadem began her local government career as an accountant with the City of Boca Raton and has since built her career through a passion for public service and continuous learning. She also serves as a Teaching Assistant for the Governmental Accounting course at her alma mater, Florida Atlantic University, where she enjoys mentoring future government finance professionals.

An active member of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association, Kadem is passionate about leadership development, mentorship, and creating opportunities for members to grow professionally and become engaged within the organization. Prior to her career in local government, she proudly served in the United States Army, where she developed the values of service, integrity, and leadership that continue to guide her career today.

A Reflection on My FGFOA Journey

Kadem's FGFOA journey began while she was an accounting student at Florida Atlantic University. During a classroom presentation, Darrel Thomas and Shannon Ramsey-Chessman introduced students to careers in government finance and the opportunities available through FGFOA. Prepared with her résumé and business cards, Kadem stayed after the presentation to introduce herself. Darrel invited her to attend a Local Chapter event, and Shannon encouraged her to apply for an open position with the Palm Beach County Clerk's Office. Those early conversations became the catalyst for her career in local government and introduced her to a professional network that would shape her future.

Kadem ultimately began her career with the City of Boca Raton, an organization that strongly supported employee involvement in FGFOA. Through committee service, chapter events, conferences, and leadership opportunities, she built lasting relationships with mentors and colleagues who have influenced both her professional growth and leadership journey. Today, serving on the FGFOA Board is a meaningful way for Kadem to give back to the organization that played such an important role in launching her career. She is passionate about fostering the same welcoming environment, mentorship, and professional development opportunities that inspired her to become involved, with the hope of encouraging the next generation of government finance leaders.

Among her most rewarding FGFOA experiences has been serving on the Professional Development Committee—the first committee she joined as a member. After serving as Committee Chair for three years and now as the Board Liaison, Kadem has found great fulfillment in developing programs that help members grow both personally and professionally. Whether through mentorship initiatives, leadership development, or university outreach, she is passionate about creating opportunities for others to build meaningful connections, develop their leadership skills, and discover the same sense of community that helped launch her own career.

Outside of her professional career, Kadem enjoys traveling with her husband, son, and daughter. She is grateful for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout her professional journey, which has allowed her to pursue leadership opportunities and serve the government finance profession.