



## Spotlight on Melissa Burns FGFOA Secretary/Treasurer

Melissa Burns serves as the Finance Director for the City of St. Augustine, overseeing budgeting, financial reporting, cash management, and debt issuance. In this role, she leads modernization initiatives to improve efficiency and transparency. With over 20 years of experience serving communities in northeast Florida, including St. Augustine Beach and Atlantic Beach, Melissa has implemented cost-saving strategies, improved operational efficiencies, and trained the next generation of finance professionals. She holds a Master's in Public Administration (MPA), is a Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO), and is currently preparing to sit for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exams.

For Melissa, FGFOA is more than just a professional association.

*"It not only provides the tools necessary to succeed in government finance—including the CGFO designation—but getting involved in the association, joining committees, and ultimately serving on the board of directors has helped me grow personally as well."*

FGFOA has played a pivotal role in shaping her career. Early on, Melissa was told she wasn't "smart enough" to understand, let alone implement, GASB Statement No. 34.

*"Thanks to the FGFOA, I definitely proved them wrong! A lot of people say this, but I really wouldn't be here today without the FGFOA."*

Melissa is especially passionate about her role as a mentor in the FGFOA Mentor/Mentee Program. She enjoys helping others in their professional journey and seeing them achieve their goals. Her story is a testament to the value of involvement, professional growth, and the power of proving yourself through perseverance and support from the FGFOA community.