



FGFOA Member Spotlight: Sharon Almeida

Sharon Almeida serves as the Finance Director for the Village of Royal Palm Beach, bringing more than 13 years of expertise in government finance. Sharon is responsible for overseeing financial reporting, cash management, purchasing, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll and asset management. She leads a team of 7 talented accounting professionals. In April 2018, she earned her Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO) designation, underscoring her dedication and proficiency in the field. She has been an active member of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association (FGFOA) for more than a decade, contributing as a current board member and previously serving as a committee chair throughout her 12 years of involvement. Her academic foundation includes a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Accounting from the University of Central Florida, which has supported her many professional accomplishments. Beyond her career, Sharon values time spent with family and friends. She enjoys traveling and shares a passion for woodworking with her husband, balancing her professional responsibilities with personal creativity and connection.

A Reflection on My FGFOA Journey

When I transitioned from the private sector into government service, I began my career as Assistant Finance Director for the Town of Lantana, eager to find guidance and educational opportunities. About a year into the role, I attended my first School of Governmental Finance, where I was introduced to the Florida Government Finance Officers Association (FGFOA) and the incredible opportunities it provides. At the time, I could never have imagined the profound impact FGFOA would have on both my career and my life.

In 2019, I participated in the FGFOA Leadership week-long training event, an experience that proved transformative. I entered the program unsure of what to expect, but I left with a renewed sense of confidence, deep personal reflection, and friendships that continue to enrich my life. That training truly changed me, giving me lifelong connections I can rely on for both professional guidance and personal support.

Through FGFOA, I've had the privilege of advancing in my career, serving on committees and the board of directors, and building friendships that will last a lifetime. Looking back, I know my journey would have been very different without the support, opportunities, and community that FGFOA has given me.

How FGFOA Has Shaped My Career

FGFOA has been instrumental in shaping my career and helping me achieve my goal of becoming Finance Director. Through its extensive educational programs, valuable networking opportunities, essential resources, and professional mentorship, the organization has equipped me with the tools and confidence needed to reach this milestone.

What I Am Most Passionate About in FGFOA

I am deeply passionate about helping others achieve their goals because I can personally relate to that journey. Throughout my career, I have pushed myself to grow both as a person and as a financial professional, even when the path wasn't always easy. The FGFOA School of Governmental Finance provided me with an environment where I could thrive—a smaller, more intimate setting that made me feel comfortable and supported.

As someone who isn't always the most outgoing in unfamiliar environments, I found the School's welcoming atmosphere to be invaluable. It gave me the confidence to progress and connect in ways I might not have otherwise. For this reason, the School of Governmental Finance has become one of my greatest passions. I continue to actively support and work with the School's committee to ensure its structure and goals are not only maintained but also evolved to meet the needs of future finance professionals.