



RECAPPING THE 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

St. Louis's signature attraction, the Gateway Arch, welcomed attendees as they arrived in the city for GFOA's 112th Annual Conference, May 6 to 9, 2018, which was held at America's Center Convention Complex. We had more than 5,700 delegates, guests, and exhibitors in attendance, including 540 first-time annual conference scholarship recipients. GFOA thanks the Local Conference Committee for their support.



Then-President Patrick J. McCoy (left) threw out the first pitch at the Cardinals-Cubs game on Sunday night at Busch Stadium, accompanied by Steven Gibson, who took over as GFOA president at the Tuesday business meeting.

During their stay attendees were entertained by St. Louis's popular "Blues, BBQ, and Baseball." GFOA Past President Patrick J. McCoy even threw out the first pitch at the Cardinals–Cubs game on Sunday night at Busch Stadium! It was a memorable night for Pat and his family and an honor for the more than 1,000 GFOA fans in attendance.

This year as delegates walked into the convention center, they were greeted by giant "G-F-O-A" letters. Many attendees enjoyed taking photos by the letters, shared them on social media with #GFOA2018, and the photos appeared on GFOA's social media wall along with conference updates.

WELCOME

Honorable Lyda Krewson, Mayor of the City of St. Louis, thanked attendees for their important service as she recognized that "governments at every level have limited resources." She identified with delegates because she is a CPA and former private-sector auditor and CFO. Krewson encouraged the audience to take advantage of St. Louis's many free attractions over the coming days, saying "The city would be more accountable this week with having you here." She also joked, "Don't forget to keep all of your expense receipts."



President's Address. GFOA President Patrick J. McCoy (who handed over the gavel to Steven Gibson at the Tuesday meeting) expressed his optimism about the future in spite of the challenges many governments face. He reflected that during last year's conference, he focused on the power of GFOA, and that power was demonstrated over the past year by the nearly 6,000 participants of the Annual Governmental GAAP Update, almost 7,000 followers on GFOA's social media accounts, continuous new members, and research cited in the media. "Our story is not just about numbers alone; it's about the people," McCoy said. He recognized how delegates take on new initiatives and tasks in addition to their daily work. GFOA tells these stories through its advocacy in Washington, D.C. He closed by telling attendees that "the market for our bonds is more efficient than ever" and advised them not to forget #builtbybonds.

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

Sunday. New this year, GFOA added a keynote presentation on Sunday afternoon for delegates and guests. Before the address GFOA Executive Director and CEO Chris Morrill kicked off the session by recognizing international delegations from Georgia, Israel, South Africa, and Sweden; first-time



The giant GFOA logo in the conference center lobby was a great spot for taking selfies.



Shawn Achor, one of the world's leading experts on the connection between happiness and success, at his Sunday keynote speech.

annual conference scholarship recipients; the St. Louis Local Conference Committee; home state delegates from Missouri; delegates from California, as they had the largest attendance at the conference; and delegates from Illinois, as their state had the largest increase in attendance from last year's conference.

Shawn Achor, one of the world's leading experts on the connection between happiness and success, then enthusiastically addressed the audience about his extensive research on happiness. Achor is the New York Times bestselling author of *The Happiness Advantage* and *Before Happiness*. His research on happiness made the cover of *Harvard Business Review*. His TED talk is one of the most popular of all time with over 14 million views, and his lecture airing on PBS has been seen by millions.

A key takeaway from his address is that "happiness is not a personal choice. It is an interconnected one." He explained how we as people often "mirror" each other and asked the audience to participate in an exercise with the person sitting next to them to demonstrate this act: He asked "Person 1" to not have an expression on their face and for "Person 2" to smile and look into the eyes of "Person 1" for seven seconds. He found that 80 to 85 percent of people acting as

"Person 1" cannot hold their blank expression, resulting in a smile on their face.

Going along with this concept is the "10/5" rule: "When you pass someone within 10 feet, smile, and within five feet, say 'hello.'" He provided an example of how implementing this act for hospital staff in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina significantly improved the quality of patient care with that one positive change.

He encouraged the audience to practice gratitude not just at home, but in the office. For example, start staff meetings with what you're grateful for and save nice notes in a folder to read during challenging times. Write positive e-mails for 21 days to co-workers. He advised that our brains will become addicted to this positive behavior, resulting in feelings of greater happiness.

Achor concluded that a person's "social connections" are the greatest predictor of the sustainability of happiness and an extended life.

Monday. Before the keynote presentation, James Ray, special advisor to the Secretary for Infrastructure, provided an update on the infrastructure initiative in Washington, D.C., during a question-and-answer session with then-GFOA President Patrick J. McCoy.

Betsy Myers, leadership expert, speaker, consultant, and author of *Take the Lead: Motivate, Inspire, and Bring out the Best in Yourself and Everyone Around You*, then took the stage. She discussed “true” leadership with delegates and provided practical strategies to help attendees discover who they really are, embrace their personal story, and build better relationships with those around them.

With video examples showing the successes of some of the world’s top leaders and CEOs, she explained that leadership is the “humanness of each of us; it’s the intersection of the head *and* the heart.” Great leaders such as Abraham Lincoln and Nelson Mandela practiced this intersection, she said. “If you love your employees, they will love your clients, and you will get productive results.” Myers challenged the audience to ask themselves, “Why would someone follow you?”

She continued that the number one issue that employers grapple with is talent—“it’s building a workforce that reflects the world we live in and retaining people at their best and



Betsy Myers, leadership expert, speaker, consultant, and author, was Monday’s keynote speaker.

most productive selves.” As leaders, we should want to attract diversity of thought, perspective, age, and background of all of those who surround us. Myers discussed how millennials want to work in an environment where there is “purpose and passion.” Furthermore, they want to be trusted to manage their own lives and schedules. She advised delegates that “the world has changed and that we need to change with it.” If employers are not changing by adding flexibility of work schedules, social media, websites, etc., they will lose engagement. Myers elaborated that “when we feel appreciated, we do our best work.”

Good leaders are self-aware and ask both their employees and their family members, “What can I do to improve?” We should be thinking about how to better connect with our employees, and it can be as simple as saying “thank you” and “I appreciate you.” She concluded, “Remember, you make a difference in the lives of all of those who surround you.”

Tuesday. Thomas L. Friedman, New York Times foreign affairs columnist, Pulitzer Prize winner, and bestselling author, addressed GFOA delegates. He began his presentation by explaining the title of his book, *Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist’s Guide to Thriving in an Age of Accelerations*. He came up with the title as he was waiting for a colleague to meet him. He was grateful for the colleague for being late because it allowed Friedman “permission to pause.”



Thomas L. Friedman, New York Times foreign affairs columnist, Pulitzer Prize winner, and bestselling author, addressed GFOA delegates in Tuesday’s keynote speech.

Friedman discussed the three ingredients involved in writing a column for the New York Times: 1) Your value set — the philosophy you are pushing out into the world; 2) How you think “The Machine” (the biggest forces shaping the world) works; and 3) What you have learned about people and culture. This will impact The Machine. “If you stir these ingredients together and bake for 45 minutes, you’ll have a column for the New York Times,” he said.

In conclusion, Friedman talked about how he thinks The Machine works today. It is being affected by the three largest forces on the market, which are all undergoing exponential accelerations at the same time: digital globalization (Facebook and Twitter), Mother Nature (climate change, biodiversity loss, and population growth), and Moore’s Law, which states that the speed and power of transistors will double about every two years — representing the accumulation of all technological change. These accelerations are important because “they are not only changing you, they are shaping you” in five distinct areas: workplace, politics, ethics, geopolitics, and community and towns.

Friedman elaborates on the importance of the technology that emerged in 2007 (iPhones, Twitter, Kindle, Netflix, and Bitcoin, to name a few examples). He explained that the significance of these changes was missed because of the reces-



There was plenty for attendees to discuss after GFOA’s general sessions.

sion in 2008. These changes, though, completely changed the workforce as we knew it. It’s no longer “learn to work; it’s work in order to learn.” Asking children what they want to be when they grow up is a statement of the past. Instead, we should be asking kids “How do you want to work?” In today’s workforce, we need to be lifelong learners in order to succeed.

Friedman concluded that in 2016 to 2017, we began living 51 percent of our lives in cyber space. “It’s a world where we’re all connected and no one is in charge.” In this age of acceleration, “we’re naive to think that we will be okay without the Golden Rule.” The “acceleration is the eye and the eye is the community.”

CONCURRENT SESSIONS AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Concurrent Sessions. GFOA presented 77 concurrent sessions covering all major public finance disciplines: accounting, auditing, and financial reporting; analytics; budgeting and financial planning; debt management and capital finance; pension and benefit administration; risk management; technology; and treasury and investment management. You can download session materials at gfoa.org/conference-sessions.

You can purchase most of this year’s audio recordings at gfoa.org/conference-sessions. Or to download the order form, or place your order online using GFOA’s e-store. (Please note that the recordings are offered in audio format only and that CPE credits are not awarded for listening to the recordings.)



Conference attendees take advantage of an opportunity to network.

Peer Group Networking Sessions. In addition to GFOA's standard concurrent sessions, GFOA held discussion sessions focused on small governments, urban governments, and utilities; school budgeting; and young professionals. In small groups, delegates were able to share their experiences and make connections with others from similar organizations.

GFOA CARES

We asked attendees to join with GFOA in giving back to the St. Louis community by participating and contributing to the following organizations:

- **Ronald McDonald House.** We collected 692 toys and 22 pounds of pop-tops to be recycled.
- **St. Louis Food Bank.** Thank you to those who stopped by the table to create a cheerful note that will be included in meal boxes to the area's seniors.
- **Operation Food Search.** Thank you to the volunteers who assisted at Operation Food Search's warehouse. Thank you also to those who made monetary contributions. We raised \$1,225 and with these donated funds, Operation Food Search purchased items to assemble 245 family meal kits, intended to feed 980 people. You can still contribute at operationfoodsearch.donorpages.com.

SPONSORS

GFOA would like to thank all of this year's sponsors for helping make the conference a success. Sponsorship support is critical to delivering high quality programs and activities to serve not only delegates, but also their organizations that will benefit from the new ideas they bring home. To view a list of this year's sponsors, go to gfoa.org/annual-conference/sponsorship-opportunities.

EXHIBIT HALL

The exhibit hall opened with much fanfare, including a ribbon-cutting ceremony and giveaway prizes for the first 112 delegates to enter the hall in honor of GFOA's 112th annual conference. On Sunday through Tuesday, attendees had an opportunity to look around, ask questions, and watch live demonstrations of the latest products and services available to help save their governments time and money.

Going along with GFOA's new student initiative, we were happy to welcome the University of Kentucky, Georgia State University, Kansas State University, and Northern Illinois University as exhibitors for the first time. They were joined by the University of Georgia, Ohio University-Pearson, and the University of Connecticut. View a complete list of this year's exhibiting companies in GFOA's *Buyer's Guide* at gfoa.org/buyer-guide-2018.



The exhibit hall was officially opened by: Michael A. Bryant, management and budget director, OMB, Mecklenburg County Government; Steven Gibson, GFOA president and deputy city manager for the City of Rock Hill, South Carolina; Patrick J. McCoy, GFOA past president, director of finance for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, New York; Veronica A. Carrillo, fiscal administrator for the City of San Antonio, Texas; and Debby Cherney, deputy general manager, Eastern Municipal Water District, Perris, California.



Conference attendees check out the booths in the Exhibit Hall, networking and making friends!

BUSINESS MEETING

New Executive Board Members. Making history, this was the first time an all-female slate was elected. The membership voted Terry S. Stone, assistant superintendent for business and operations, Hanover County Public Schools, Virginia, as president-elect of GFOA. Six new members-at-large were also elected: Catherine J. Brubacher, general manager of corporate services and city treasurer, City of Brantford, Ontario, Canada (filling unexpired term); Cynthia Evangelisti, treasurer, Chicago Park District, Illinois; Amelia Merchant, director, finance, City of Roanoke, Virginia; Diane Reichard, chief financial officer, City of Plant City, Florida; Tina Tapley, director of finance, innovation and technology and city treasurer, City of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada; and Terri Velasquez, director of finance, City of Aurora, Colorado. Profiles of each candidate appeared in the April 2018 issue of *Government Finance Review*.

Passing of the Presidential Gavel. Patrick J. McCoy, director of finance, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, New York, passed the presidential gavel to Steven Gibson, deputy city manager, City of Rock Hill, South Carolina. Gibson recognized delegates for investing in themselves and their organizations. He discussed how government finance

officers are in the “community-building business” and highlighted two of GFOA’s new initiatives to better serve members: attracting students to work for government and updating GFOA’s Professional Code of Ethics. GFOA continues to advocate on behalf of members in Washington, D.C., and Gibson encouraged attendees to share the information with their staff as it’s important for “all of us to work together.”

Scholarship Recipients. GFOA congratulates all the recipients of the association’s 2018 scholarships, which were presented at the conference. For the list of this year’s recipients and to read about eligibility requirements, go to gfoa.org/scholarships. Also see the article in this issue.

For the first time, GFOA offered a local attendee student scholarship to encourage student participation. Scholarships were offered up to 50 students from Missouri schools.

Awards for Excellence. The Awards for Excellence in Government Finance program recognizes innovative programs and contributions to the practice of government finance that exemplify outstanding financial management. The awards stress practical, documented work that offers leadership to the profession and promotes improved public finance. Entries may be submitted for consideration

in one of the following Award for Excellence categories: Creative Solution to Common Challenge or Exceptionally Well Implemented GFOA Best Practice.

The following entities received the Award for Excellence in 2018. Samples of the winning submissions will be available on GFOA's website after the 2018 annual conference.

Awards for Excellence winners for Exceptionally Well Implemented GFOA Best Practices include:

- **City of Bowling Green, Kentucky** — Safeguarding Equipment Assets with the Physical Inventory
- **County of San Diego, California** — Leveraging GFOA Best Practices in the Strategic Management of Liabilities
- **City of Peoria, Arizona** — Economic Development Agreement Monitoring System
- **City and County of Denver, Colorado** — 2017 GO Bond Process: An Inclusive Approach to Public Outreach
- **Travis County (Auditor's Office), Texas** — Electronic Form for Related Party Verifications
- **City of Kansas City, Missouri** — Engaging Residents in KC's Citywide Business Plan
- **City of Thousand Oaks, California** — "Your City, Your Priorities"
- **Mecklenburg County, North Carolina** — Budget Monitoring and Reporting Process
- **College of DuPage, Illinois** — Budget-in-Brief Publication



Attendees caught up with colleagues in the hallways between general sessions.

Awards for Excellence winner for Creative Solution to a Common Challenge includes:

- **City of Seattle, Washington** — FileLocal: A Cross Jurisdictional Tax Portal for Business

View the list of winners at gfoa.org/award-programs/awards-excellence.

Certified Public Finance Officers (CPFOs). The delegates acknowledged attendees who took the CPFO exams during the St. Louis conference and congratulated the 745 current CPFOs on their achievement. For more information, including a listing of all active CPFOs that is searchable by state, go to gfoa.org/cpfo.

EVENTS

Welcome Reception. To help kick off the start of the conference, delegates and their guests had an opportunity to mingle with friends and colleagues over appetizers while listening to some local music in America's Center Convention Complex. The exhibit hall remained open to allow attendees dedicated time to stroll the hall and get to know this year's exhibiting companies.

Conference Finale. During the *A Night At the Peabody* closing event, conference delegates and their guests gathered at the beautifully restored Peabody Opera House for some dessert and an unforgettable concert featuring Pat Benatar and Neil "Spyder" Giraldo, four-time Grammy winners, married 36 years and musical partners for 39 years. Pat and Neil rocked the opera house with their hits, including "Love Is a Battlefield," "Heartbreaker," "We Live for Love," "We Belong," and the signature "Promises in The Dark." Concertgoers could be heard singing along throughout the night especially to the lively rendition of Johnny Cash's "Ring of Fire."

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Be a part of the discussion on GFOA's social media sites:



Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)

@GFOA (#GFOA)



@chrisgfoa

@GFOAjobs



GFOA of the US & Canada



GFOA Is California Dreamin’!

GFOA is gearing up for its 113th Annual Conference, May 19 to 22, 2019, at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

The undisputed entertainment capital of the world, Los Angeles invented the magic of movies and television. Discover L.A.’s vibrant regions, incredible diversity of cultures, attractions, hotels, restaurants, museums, and activities; not to mention the stunning beaches, picturesque mountains and year-round warm weather.

Attendees at the St. Louis conference had an opportunity to learn about what Los Angeles has to offer at the Los Angeles Tourism and Convention Board’s booth in the exhibit hall. For more information including free attractions, go to discoverlosangeles.com.



Stephen Blann, director of governmental audit quality at Rehmann, and his son, Calvin Blann age 8, pose with the cutout GFOA bug.

The call for topics and speakers for the conference is open at gfoa.org/call-for-topics. We invite you to suggest ideas for next year's conference as soon as possible!

Conference registration will open in early November on GFOA's website. We introduced many new improvements

at the St. Louis conference, and you can expect to see even more in L.A.! Keep watch to GFOA's website for updates.

Get ready to experience the best of L.A. with GFOA — we can't wait to see you next May!



A Brief History: Did You Know?

1926 A 2,400-plus mile stretch of road connecting Los Angeles and Chicago is designated as U.S. Highway 66. Roadside architecture and American popular music have never been the same since.



1927 Talkies arrive, with the first feature-length talking picture, *The Jazz Singer*, starring Al Jolson, and Fox Movietone News, which will be a regular feature in cinemas until 1963.

1927 Grauman's Chinese Theatre (now TCL Chinese Theatre) opens. Over the years, impresario Sid Grauman and his successors will invite dozens of top stars to leave their handprints and footprints in freshly poured cement out front.



1927 Establishment of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, with actor Douglas Fairbanks as president. Oscar winners have been thanking the Academy ever since.

1927 200,000 people greet aviator Charles Lindbergh.



1928 Los Angeles City Hall opens. Just the facts, ma'am: the tower, with its distinctive pyramid-shaped roof, later appears on the opening credits of the TV show *Dragnet*.



1928 The first Academy Awards ceremony takes place at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. *Wings*, directed by William Wellman, wins best picture.



1928 Walt Disney finds his first lasting success with the release of the animated talking picture *Steamboat Willie*, starring a mouse named Mickey.



View more of the historical timeline at discoverlosangeles.com.



GFOA Awards 2018 Scholarships

GFOA's mission is to promote excellence in state and local government financial management and the awarding of scholarships is one of the ways GFOA accomplishes its mission. To help further this mission, GFOA was proud to announce the recipients of its 2018 scholarships at its annual conference.

GOLDBERG-MILLER PUBLIC FINANCE SCHOLARSHIP

Award Amount: \$15,000

Funded by the Girard Miller Foundation.

The recipient is **Shirley A. Walker**, who will graduate in May 2018 with a Master of Accountancy degree with an emphasis on Forensic Accounting, from Christian Brothers University, Memphis, Tennessee. Shirley presently serves as the chief financial officer with the Holly Springs Marshall County Airport, and project manager with the Marshall County Industrial Development Authority, in Mississippi. She plans to sit for the Certified Public Accounting, Certified Fraud Examiner, and Certified Information Systems Auditor examinations, with the goal of achieving a Forensic Accounting and Auditing position within government.

FRANK L. GREATHOUSE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING SCHOLARSHIP

Award Amount: \$10,000 each

Funded by Government Finance Officers Association

The recipients of the two awards are **Erika Jex** and **Timothy Kelly**.

- **Erika Jex** will graduate in May 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Accounting and Fraud Examination degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona. She presently serves as an intern for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In this position, Erika inputs and analyzes data in Excel, publishes reports, and assists squad members with other tasks. Erika placed first in Arizona in Forensic Accounting at a Phi Beta Lambda competition in 2017, and placed fifth in the nation. Upon graduation, Erika plans to pursue a Master of Science in Accounting degree and sit for the Certified Public Accounting and Certified Fraud Examiner examinations, with a goal of working in the field of governmental accounting.
- **Timothy Kelly** will graduate in May 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Finance degree from Sacred Heart University, John F. Welch College of Business, in Fairfield, Connecticut. He will participate in an audit intern program with PricewaterhouseCoopers this summer, and begin coursework to achieve a Master of Science in Accounting degree, with a concentration in Forensic Accounting. Timothy's goals include working in the accounting or finance function of a local government, and obtaining the position of controller.

MINORITIES IN GOVERNMENT FINANCE SCHOLARSHIP

Award Amount: \$10,000

Funded by Government Finance Officers Association.

The recipient is **Chineme Stacy Esimai**, who will graduate in the spring of 2020 with a Master in Public Administration, concentration in Inspection and Oversight, from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, New York. Stacy immigrated to the United States from Nigeria more than 20 years

ago and earned the Certified Public Accountant and Certified Fraud Examiner designations. She is currently employed by the New York City Comptroller's Office in the Audit Bureau, where she assists with the financial audits of New York City agencies. Stacy's long-term goal is to work in the Inspector or Auditor General Office at the state or municipal level.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Award Amount: \$10,000 each

Funded by the Government Finance Officers Association Scholarship Reserve.

The recipients of the four awards are **David Franklin Bodway III**, **Ximena Tagle Hodzic**, **Bethany McCrady**, and **Chelsie Wilson**.

- **David Franklin Bodway III** will graduate in June 2019 with an Executive Master in Public Administration degree from Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. He has been employed with Clackamas County, Oregon, since 2012 and currently serves as a finance manager. David manages the county ledger that encompasses a \$781 million dollar budget, and oversees the general ledgers for five of the county's component units. David's goal is to expand his leadership and responsibilities within local government.
- **Ximena Tagle Hodzic** will graduate in December 2018 from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Richmond, Virginia, with a Master in Public Administration degree and a concentration in Financial Management. Ximena immigrated to the United States from Peru with a goal of working in government. She has been employed by the Commonwealth of Virginia for almost three years, currently serving as a budget and policy analyst for the Department of Planning and Budget. Previously, Ximena served as a Newcomer Health Program specialist for the Virginia Department of Health. Ximena's goal is to continue working in state or local government finance.
- **Bethany McCrady** will graduate in December 2018 from the University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas, with a Master of Public Affairs degree. Bethany has been

employed with the City of Richardson, Texas, for more than five years. As a senior financial analyst, her responsibilities include coordinating activities of third-party audit providers, implementing and guiding the internal audit program, administering the city's credit card acceptance program, and developing finance-related policies and procedures for the city's departments. Bethany's career goal is to one day be the finance director for the City of Richardson.

- **Chelsie Wilson** will graduate from Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida, in July 2019 with a Master of Accountancy degree. Chelsie has been employed with the Town of Davie, Florida for 22 years, currently serving as an accountant II. Her responsibilities include specialized accounting tasks, assisting in cash management and investing activities, reconciling accounts, subsidiary records, and subsystems, and reviewing financial transactions for accuracy, completeness, and conformance with guidelines. Chelsie's goals include sitting for the Certified Public Accounting examination, and securing an accounting position with greater responsibilities within the Town of Davie.

JEFFREY L. ESSER CAREER DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Award Amount: \$5,000 each

Funded by Government Finance Officers Association.

The recipients of the three awards are **Celia King**, **Larissa Mendez**, and **Amy Miller**.

- **Celia King** will graduate in June 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from California Coast University in Santa Ana, California. Celia has been employed with the Town of Yountville, California for nearly 14 years, beginning her career as an account clerk in the finance department and currently serving as an accounting technician. Her responsibilities include performing higher-level accounting tasks, assisting in the compilation of the annual budget and comprehensive annual financial report, preparing journal entries; monthly, and quarterly financial reports; and processing bi-weekly payroll. Celia's goal is to one day secure a position as a finance manager or finance director.

- **Larissa Mendez** will graduate from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida, in December 2022 with a Bachelor of Public Management degree. Larissa has been employed with Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach, Florida, for 13 years, beginning her career as a clerical specialist in the zoning department. Currently, she is a procurement specialist with the Facilities Development and Operations Division. Her responsibilities include reviewing department requisitions for completeness and accuracy; obtaining non-discrimination forms, insurance forms, and quotes from vendors; and authorizing payments of invoices or the return of merchandise. Larissa's goal is to secure a finance position with greater responsibilities within Palm Beach County.
- **Amy Miller** will graduate in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting degree from Colorado State University, Global Campus, in Greenwood Village, Colorado. Amy has been employed with the City of West Bend, Wisconsin, for five years, currently serving as the deputy finance administrator. Her responsibilities include providing supervisory and administrative support to the finance administrator, while overseeing the daily operations of the finance department. Amy assists with the preparation and delegation of the operating budget document and the annual audit, processes the annual budget entries, and performs the year-end close. Before joining West Bend, Amy was employed by the Herman School District in Mayville, Wisconsin, as business manager/bookkeeper. Amy's goal is to continue expanding her responsibilities while working in government finance.



GFOA's annual conference provides opportunities for attendees to meet with friends, new and old.