

Spotlight on Leadership: President-Elect Kelly Strickland



With more than three decades of experience in governmental accounting, finance, and budgeting, Kelly Strickland is a seasoned leader dedicated to public service and financial excellence. She currently serves as the Director of Financial Administration for the City of Sarasota, where she leads efforts in budgeting, accounting, cash management, debt issuance, and financial reporting.

Kelly's career has spanned across several Florida communities, including Sarasota, Martin, Alachua, and Gilchrist counties, where she has consistently demonstrated a commitment to fiscal responsibility and professional development. Her credentials include Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO), and Certified Public Pension Trustee (CPPT). She earned her Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of West Florida.

An active member of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association (FGFOA), Kelly currently serves on the Board of Directors as President-Elect. A proud graduate of the inaugural Leadership FGFOA class, she also gives back by teaching at the FGFOA School of Government Finance and serving as an instructor for CGFO review courses.

Reflecting on her FGFOA journey, Kelly shares:

"Earning the CGFO designation has been one of the most impactful milestones in my career. Professionally, it has opened doors to leadership opportunities, expanded my knowledge of public finance, and deepened my credibility within the field. Personally, it has given me a strong sense of accomplishment and connection to a community of dedicated professionals who inspire me to continue growing and giving back."

FGFOA has been instrumental in shaping Kelly's career, providing the mentorship, education, and statewide network that have helped her grow as a leader and as a finance professional.

"FGFOA has not only expanded my understanding of public finance, but it has also shaped my values of service, integrity, and continuous learning," she explains. "Being President-Elect is an honor and a result of the incredible support and inspiration I've received, and continue to receive, from FGFOA."

Kelly is particularly passionate about the CGFO designation, calling it an integral part of her professional journey.

"The CGFO designation is woven into the tapestry of my growth as a finance professional and as a leader. The people I've met, the guidance I've received, and the chance to give back through teaching and service have all meant more to me than I can put into words. Being elected President-Elect feels like coming full circle. I'm so grateful to be part of this incredible community, known as FGFOA."