



Spotlight on Melissa Licourt, CPA, CGFO

After nearly two decades in the construction industry, Melissa "Missy" Licourt transitioned into public finance in 2010, joining the St. Johns River Water Management District as a Senior Accountant with a focus on managing the District's grant portfolio. Over the next fifteen years, she advanced through progressively responsible roles—including Senior Management Analyst, Budget Coordinator, and Budget Director—ultimately leading to her current position as **Director of the Office of Financial Services**. In this role, Missy oversees all aspects of budgeting, accounting, and procurement services while providing leadership and guidance to her team.

Reflecting on her professional journey, Missy credits the FGFOA as a pivotal force:

"I owe much of my growth and success to the FGFOA. The incredible mentors I've had and the transformative training I've received have propelled me beyond my comfort zone—closing the door on 'comfortable' for good and opening one to continuous growth."

Missy's leadership path within FGFOA began unexpectedly when she was "voluntold" to serve as a committee sub-chair. That turning point revealed how meaningful her contributions could be to others, inspiring her to serve as a committee chair for two years. She also pursued her CGFO certification—something she hadn't originally planned—which has since opened doors to career opportunities she never imagined.

She cites **Leadership FGFOA** as the true beginning of her journey toward self-confidence. Once hesitant to speak up, Missy now presents with confidence, crediting mentors such as Past President Gasparri for their steady encouragement:

"Public speaking was never something I imagined myself doing, yet it became possible because of Leadership FGFOA. I'll never forget my first presentation to the Governing Board—I was convinced the floor might open up and swallow me whole. It didn't. I survived. And each time I present, it gets just a little easier."

Through FGFOA, Missy has grown into a leader who not only manages complex financial operations but also inspires others to embrace growth beyond their comfort zones. Her story is a reminder that sometimes the unplanned paths lead to the most meaningful growth.