



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GFOA Awards Jeffrey L. Esser Career Development Scholarship

(Chicago, Illinois – April 3, 2018) Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has announced the recipients of its 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.

The recipients of the three awards for the ***Jeffrey L. Esser Career Development Scholarship*** are **Celia King, Larissa Mendez, and Amy Miller**. Each will receive **\$5,000**.

- **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 almost fourteen 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 thirteen years, beginning her career as a Clerical Specialist in the Zoning Department. Currently, she is serving as a Procurement Specialist with the Facilities Development and Operations Division. Her responsibilities include

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reviewing department requisitions for completeness and accuracy, obtaining non-discrimination forms, insurance forms, and three 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 Accountancy 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. Prior to the City of West Bend, Amy was employed by the Herman School District in Mayville, Wisconsin, as the Business Manager/Bookkeeper. Amy's goal is to continue expanding her responsibilities while working in government finance.

GFOA's *Jeffrey L. Esser Career Development Scholarship* is available for award to one or more employees of a state or local government enrolled in part-time undergraduate study to advance their career in state and local government finance. The winners of the scholarship are invited to attend GFOA's annual conference, where the awards will be presented. This scholarship is funded by Government Finance Officers Association.

The eligibility requirements for the award include:

- Employed at least three years by one or more state or local governments.
- Currently a part-time student in an undergraduate program in public administration, governmental accounting, finance, or business administration to advance their career in state and local government finance.
- Citizen or permanent resident of the United States or Canada.
- Recommendation from someone who can speak to the student's commitment to the public sector.
- Recommendation by employer.
- Student has not been a past winner of a scholarship program administered by Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

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For more information about GFOA’s scholarships, please contact Peg Hartnett, Senior Manager, at phartnett@gfoa.org.

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Government Finance Officers Association is a major professional association servicing the needs of nearly 19,400 appointed and elected local, state, and provincial-level government officials and other finance practitioners. It provides top quality publications, training programs, services, and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management. The association is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, with offices in Washington, DC.