



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GFOA Awards Government Finance Professional 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 four awards for the ***Government Finance Professional Development Scholarship*** are **David Franklin Bodway III, Ximena Tagle Hodzic, Bethany McCrady, and Chelsie Wilson**. Each will receive **\$10,000**.

- **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 in the Virginia Department of Health. Ximena's goal is to continue working in state or local government finance.

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- **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 over 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 twenty-two 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.

GFOA's *Government Finance Professional Development Scholarship* is available for award to one or more employees of a state or local government enrolled in part-time graduate study preparing for a 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 Scholarship Reserve.

The eligibility requirements for the award include:

- Employed at least two years by one or more state or local governments.
- Currently a part-time student in a graduate program in public administration, governmental accounting, finance, economics, or business administration preparing for a career in state and local government finance; student expected to be enrolled in the spring semester of the year for which the scholarship is awarded (including graduates of that spring semester).
- Baccalaureate degree or its equivalent.
- 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.