

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As we step into 2025, I am both humbled and excited to serve as your TGFOA President again. While the path to this role unfolded differently than expected, I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to an organization that has been such a vital part of my professional journey. Together, we will continue advancing excellence in government finance across the state of Tennessee.

Change is inevitable, and it often brings unexpected opportunities. Embracing change allows us to grow, innovate, and discover strengths we may not have realized we possessed. As TGFOA moves forward, we will focus on leveraging new opportunities to strengthen our mission and adapt to the evolving landscape of government finance. I encourage each of you to view change not as a hurdle, but as a chance to learn, grow, and contribute in meaningful ways.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to promoting strong leadership, delivering impactful educational opportunities, supporting professional development, and fostering connections among government finance professionals throughout Tennessee. With your continued support and active engagement, I am confident that 2025 will be another remarkable year for TGFOA.

Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility. Let's make this year one of progress and collaboration!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kari Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kari Bates
TGFOA President, 2025