

## MICHAEL KOOP, CFA NAMED VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER



A mentor can be an invaluable guide to help navigate one's career. With two dedicated mentorship programs, CFA Society Los Angeles (CFALA) understands the potential impact and benefit of an effective mentor. Few people appreciate the importance of mentorship more than the *CFA Society Los Angeles Fall 2019 Volunteer of the Quarter*, Michael Koop, CFA. Koop not only volunteers as a mentor, but he is also co-chair of CFALA's [Career Mentorship Program](#)

and co-chair of the USC/CFALA CFA® Review Program Level I Mentor Match Program.

“The Mentor Match Program is focused on helping candidates pass the CFA Level I exam successfully,” Koop explained. “The Career Mentorship Program is focused on guidance and providing perspective on career progression and professional development.”

Koop's early experiences in the financial industry helped him see the immense value in mentor programs.

“Early in my career, I always had the idea I had to navigate my career and my CFA studies by myself,” Koop recalled. “When I started becoming more involved with the CFA Society in The Netherlands, I realized that many others had the same experiences. Having people to talk to really helps you put things in perspective, while also receiving practical guidance and useful tips along the way.”

In his role as co-chair of the Career Mentorship Program, Koop works with co-chair Roxanne Cheng, CFA to pair young finance professionals with the right mentor. But their work isn't done there. After matching the mentees with their mentors, Koop and Cheng provide guidelines for participants, set expectations, keep mentors and mentees on the same page, and track the progress of the mentor-mentee relationship throughout the program. Koop is appreciative of the outstanding response to the program that he has helped organize for three years, though he gives much of the credit to program participants.

“It's a great feeling when a mentor or mentee gives positive feedback on the program,” Koop said. “Even though we're only the facilitators in the process, and the actual work is being done by the pairs, it's great to know you've had impact on someone's professional development.”

Although the majority of Koop's volunteer efforts at CFALA involve mentorship, he has also volunteered as a panelist for CFALA's “Mastering the Level II and III CFA® Exams” panel discussion and assisted with CFALA's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Group. Still, Koop has taken a keen interest in mentor-related programs. And it isn't by accident.

“After finding a great mentor myself when I was a mentee in the Career Mentorship Program, I realized how tremendously impactful one can be,” Koop recounted. “I wanted to return the favor and help others in their search.”

Koop currently holds the position of Director, Investment Product Management Group at AIG. Prior to joining AIG in 2018, Mr. Koop worked as a Portfolio Manager for Kempen Capital Management in Amsterdam, where he was responsible for the investment management of pension schemes, insurance companies, fund-of-funds and high net worth individuals. Mr. Koop earned a M.S. degree (cum laude) in Finance and a B.S. in Business Administration from Tilburg University in The Netherlands.