

Lauren Semeniuta, CFA, CPA, Named Volunteer of the Quarter



Volunteering is fundamentally a giving role; one volunteers and gives their time, energy and skills for the greater benefit of the group. Yet it is what the volunteer receives from that experience that makes the sacrifices worthwhile. For Lauren Semeniuta, CFA, CPA, the *CFA Society of Los Angeles Summer 2018 Volunteer of the Quarter*, the professional growth from her time as Chair of the Women's Group, and now as part of the Wealth Management Excellence Series (WMES) Advisory Council, has proven immense.

"The network and ongoing industry education I've gained through participation is worth sitting in LA traffic for. Like most things in life, the more you give, the more you get," Semeniuta says.

After receiving her CFA Charter in 2014 and joining the CFA Society of Los Angeles, Semeniuta quickly got involved in the Women's Group. While serving as chair from 2015 through the first half of 2018, she organized networking events, found engaging speakers and provided a sense of community within the larger society.

"As I grew up in the profession, I had a desire to provide guidance, mentorship and a sense of community to other women in the field," Semeniuta says of her decision to first become active in the Women's Group.

Earlier this year, Semeniuta transferred that desire to the Wealth Management Member Community, when she secured Professor Meir Statman, PhD, to speak on Behavioral Finance as part of the WMES. Semeniuta says she was honored to be asked on board the WMES Advisory Council and was impressed by the community of wealth management professionals that was created through the series, a benefit she was able to take advantage of through volunteering.

Whether it is for the Women's Group or WMES, Semeniuta recognizes the significance of delivering event attendees similar benefits she's received from volunteering. "The speakers and topics should be valuable enough that individuals will feel that giving time outside of their busy careers and lives is worthwhile," Semeniuta says. "The topics should encourage all attendees to continue their career development and provide value that perhaps they wouldn't get through their normal job training."

Semeniuta is a Regional Director in the Financial Advisor Services group at Dimensional Fund Advisors. Before joining Dimensional in 2015, she worked at Deloitte, PIMCO, and PricewaterhouseCoopers. She holds a BA in business-economics from the University of California, Los Angeles, with a minor in Accounting. Semeniuta is a CPA in the state of California and a CFA Charterholder.