

Alfredo Gomez, CFA, CAIA, Named Volunteer of the Quarter



Building toward the future of the CFA designation and the finance industry as a whole is one of the key objectives of CFA Society Los Angeles (CFALA). While the main focus of CFALA is to provide professional and career development for its members, students and prospective candidates still require a wealth of support. CFALA relies on volunteer mentors in various capacities to aid the next class of CFAs. Alfredo Gomez, CFA, CAIA, has been named *CFA Society Los Angeles Spring 2018 Volunteer of the Quarter* for his efforts as a mentor in the Financial Advisors Contest, Institute Research Challenge, and the

USC/CFALA CFA® Review Program. Gomez provides constructive feedback and encouraging insight in these roles.

“There are two main drivers in my decision to volunteer: the lack of financial literacy education in our school system, and the idea that the learning process never stops,” Gomez says. “In all of these, I only play a small role, but with enough people working toward the same goals, we can leave an impact.”

Gomez notes the variances of his mentees. High school students need exposure to financial ideas and concepts, he explains, and a positive role model can have an exponentially greater impact. College students, however, are already highly-motivated and self-selected, and they seek real-world examples of a career in finance and direction on how to practically apply their training. Gomez mentored a team of college students at this past February’s Institute Research Challenge, offering guidance in their equity research of the subject company.

“If I can play my part and help improve literacy and encourage continuing education, hopefully I can help build a better society,” Gomez says.

Gomez’ volunteer focus is not directed solely at the future, though. He also participated in the Career Mentorship Program, again as a mentor, and he will be leading the Alternative Investments Group for the upcoming year. Gomez has also found his volunteer efforts offered him the opportunity to grow his professional network and meet people in different fields and at different stages of their careers.

Gomez is Managing Director of Research at Snyder Kearney, LLC. He received his Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Business Administration—with an emphasis in International Business—and Economics from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. He is a CFA charterholder and a CAIA charterholder.