

Liz Wallace
Communications Manager

lwallace@ci.norfolk.ne.us

For Immediate Release: September 18, 2017
City of Norfolk employee becomes Nebraska's second Certified Public Finance Officer



Sheila Rios, City of Norfolk Senior Accountant, has a lot to be proud of. She has just become the second person in Nebraska to earn the title of Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO). The CPFO Certification Program is a broad, educational self-study program which is designed to verify knowledge in the disciplines of government finance. Currently, there are only 493 active CPFO's in the United States.

Sheila began preparing for the exams in October 2015 by reading, on average, one hour a day, six days a week. In all, she had to read 30 different books to prepare for the exams. There was a total of five tests she had to pass in order to become certified: Treasury and Investment Management; Debt Management; Operating and Capital Budgeting; Retirement & Benefits, Risk Management, and Procurement; and Governmental Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting. On top of all this – Sheila just had her fourth child in February!

There are no testing sites in our area, so Sheila Schukei, the Human Resource Director for the City of Norfolk, applied to be a host site for the test. Being able to provide this testing site allowed Sheila to stay close to home and her family.

“Sheila’s hard work and accomplishment is a great example of one of our exemplary employees who has taken the initiative to upgrade her knowledge and skills,” said Schukei.

Sheila found out that she passed her last exam in mid-August this year. She received her certificate in the mail earlier this month. To remain active as a CPFO, Sheila must complete 30 hours of continuing professional education each year.