

# Leadership in Action

FPA members inspire others in many ways, helping lead in their practice, local Chapter, community, family, and especially with their clients. FPA Leadership in Action helps highlight these “everyday” qualities of our members and remind us that we all have opportunities to lead.



**NAME:** Tom Warschauer, member since 2000

**COMPANY:** San Diego State University, San Diego, Calif.

## Learning and Leadership Are Indispensable to Each Other

### A Leader in the Profession

Dr. Tom Warschauer is professor of finance at San Diego State University's (SDSU) College of Business Administration. He also established and serves as Director of the nation's first bachelor's and master's degree program in Personal Financial Planning at SDSU and is Director of the University's Center for the Study of Personal Financial Planning.

Tom has been instrumental in helping establish the academic cornerstone that is essential for any true profession. As a professor, he devotes his time to assisting his students learn and be exposed to the financial planning profession. It is also with Tom's unwavering support and assistance that the local FPA student chapter continues to be a strong force within the college. Tom is currently a member of the FPA Academic Council. In addition to his passion for academia, Tom has been a longtime advocate for consumer rights in the financial area. During his career, he has testified before the U.S. Congress on the topic of Social Security and consulted with many of the nation's largest financial institutions, helping them improve customer service and implement personal financial planning advice.

### Lessons Learned

- Don't create followers; create more leaders
- Lead by example, or don't lead at all. The only way people know you truly value something is when they see it in action
- Find more ways to say “yes”, helping people realize that they are very capable of becoming leaders and accomplishing great things

### Tom's Leadership Portfolio

Tom has practiced financial planning for 15 years and was the NASD Principal for a regional securities firm in Colorado. He was a founder and first president of the national Academy of Financial Services.

Tom has served as a member of the Board of Examiners for the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. and has been a CFP® practitioner since 1976. Tom has been the academic editor of the *Journal of the Institute of Certified Financial Planners* and is associate editor of the *Financial Services Review*. He holds a Ph.D. in finance from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

“It could be said that the essence of a capitalist system rests upon a family's belief that they can make financial decisions that improve their destiny. In our complex world, it is apparent that unbiased professional financial advice can help achieve this end.”

— Tom Warschauer

If you would like to nominate an FPA member for Leadership in Action recognition, please visit: [www.FPAnet.org/professionals/leaders](http://www.FPAnet.org/professionals/leaders).

