APRIL 2018 PRESIDENT’S HIGHLIGHTS

Helen Faith
Dean of New Student Transitions
Lane Community College
Eugene, Oregon

Good afternoon! I’m on a plane—again—imagine that! Honestly, every place I’ve had the privilege to visit has been a wonderful treat. Nonetheless, it would be silly not to admit that I’m particularly excited for this trip to beautiful Honolulu, Hawaii to attend the annual PacFAA conference. I’ve had the immense pleasure of meeting quite a few PacFAA members over the years that I’ve been involved in WASFAA, and their warmth and graciousness is simply beautiful. I am deeply honored and humbled to be a guest and speaker at every state conference I’ve attended this year representing WASFAA.

It’s hard to believe that my WASFAA presidential year is nearly at an end—this will be my last state conference of the year. I want to take a moment to thank all of you for putting your faith in me and electing me into this position.

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When I began my first financial aid position at the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2000, I would never have imagined that I would be here today. It speaks to the extraordinary nature of our profession that I’ve had so many colleagues embrace and mentor me over these past 18 years. It’s as if I’ve been born and grown to adulthood as a financial aid profession, and I am so very grateful for the way this work has transformed my life and given me the ability to help others in so many meaningful ways. No matter how difficult our jobs can be, knowing the good we’re doing in the world fills me with hope.

My final WASFAA presidential trip will be to lovely Boise, Idaho to see many of you at the annual WASFAA conference, April 22-24. It’s bittersweet to say farewell to this extraordinary year—it has taught me, challenged me, and strengthened me in so many ways, and I have so many people to thank for their support, encouragement, reminders, and guidance. This is not a job one takes on alone! It takes a village to make a WASFAA president successful, and our WASFAA village is extraordinarily committed, smart, and giving. I’m excited to close out my presidential year with a conference that promises to be outstanding, and with a vote on an exciting and ground-breaking concept for WASFAA: an institutional pricing structure for membership that will preserve all the benefits of our existing individual membership while making WAFAA training and volunteering more accessible across our campuses.

I hope you’ll join me in supporting this pricing option.

I’m also excited to present our annual awards at the conference—what a wonderful way to cap off the year! WASFAA owes its success as an organization to the tireless dedication of so many volunteers, and having the chance to publicly recognize these amazing contributions may be the thing I’m most eagerly anticipating. If you haven’t felt ready to volunteer for WASFAA yet, I hope you’ll consider dipping in a toe this upcoming year. There are opportunities for everyone, with time commitments ranging from an hour spent moderating a conference session all the way up to serving as a faculty member at the week-long Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute, and everything in between. I’ve built many skills pretty much by accident through various volunteer opportunities over the year, and I’ve met some of my dearest friends as well. I truly can’t imagine my life without volunteerism for OASFAA, WASFAA, and NASFAA. I’ve truly received far more than I’ve ever given, and I’ll forever endeavor to keep paying those gifts forward.

Thank you again. I can’t wait to see you in just a few weeks. If we haven’t met yet, I hope you’ll stop by and introduce yourself. It has been an honor and a gift to serve you.

Sincerely,
Helen Faith

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Hello WASFAA and welcome to the April Newsletter! Sadly, this is my last newsletter as your editor. I have thoroughly enjoyed being your WASFAA Communications Chair over these past two years. I’m leaving you in great hands as Nic Dehaan from the University of Phoenix will officially take over as Communications Chair and newsletter editor on May 1st. Nic has been actively involved on the WASFAA Communications committee for the last two years, and he is actively involved in the Arizona Association (AASFAA). Nic has some great ideas to take communications to the next level and I am excited to see what he has in store!

We have some great articles this month. Don’t forget to mark your calendars for our upcoming conference and Summer Institute!

As always, if you would like to send any feedback or contribute to the newsletter, please send your articles or submissions to communications@wasfaa.org by April 20th.

**Newsletter Ads**

Newsletter ads are a great way to advertise your products and services. The newsletter will be published electronically on a monthly basis. To purchase ad space click here.

Cost for 3 months:

- Full page: 7 ½” x 10” $500
- Half page: 7 ½” x 4 ¾” $250
- Quarter page: 3 ½” x 4 ¾” $100

**APRIL FREE TRAININGS**

WASFAA is pleased to share web based training opportunities for financial aid administrators provided by our industry partners during the month of April.

Topics range from financial aid compliance, to helping students managing debt and repayment.

These training and informational sessions are available to you free of charge.

Click here for more detailed information on the sessions offered and the registration links.

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**Editor's Corner**

David Downing
Assistant Director of Communications
Student Financial Services
Washington State University

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**WASFAA Social Media**

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**WASFAA Communications Committee**

Sun Ow • Nicholas Dehaan • Ashley Coleman • Eli Herr • Wendy Olson • Adrienne Garcia-Specht • Dana Pride

WASFAA welcomes all views and invites submissions of articles, essays, photographs or information of general interest to all members. Submissions should be brief and should not advertise specific products or services. Submissions may be edited. It may not be possible to publish all articles submitted. Opinions expressed in the WASFAA Newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily of WASFAA, its members or the institutions represented by the authors. Email items for publication to communications@wasfaa.org.
WASFAA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Greetings from the WASFAA Conference Committee!

When you read this we will be a few short weeks out from our annual conference in Boise, Idaho. We are excited to see all of you and network and learn together by sharing best practices and information on a myriad of topics (really go check out our conference agenda)!

If you haven’t read about it, you should know that Boise and the surrounding area has been racking up all kinds of accolades in the last few years. In February, Expedia recognized Boise as the #4 coolest downtown in North America. Then in March, Lonely Planet named Boise #2 best in the U.S. destinations you need to see in 2018. Lucky for you we have the perfect plan, come for the conference and see for yourself! Then you can mark that one off your list...and really who doesn’t enjoy the exhilaration and rush of accomplishment that comes with crossing something off a list?

During our opening session we will be joined by Boise State University’s President Bob Kustra. An avid reader, Dr. Kustra can be heard each week on Boise State Public radio interviewing leading fiction and non-fiction authors from across the nation. President Kustra brings a wealth of knowledge and experience related to transformation, creativity, and a can-do attitude and will be sure to kick things off right!

We encourage you to bring your business cards to participate in this year’s version of corporate sponsor bingo which is going to feature some deliciously hilarious meme’s with financial aid captions (thanks to the FA Office at NNU)! Those who use the planned times to figure out all of the memes will be entered into a drawing for prizes (we know you love to win stuff!).

We are also excited to announce that we will be joined at the Sunday evening WASFAA President’s Reception by Boise’s own Oinkari Basque Dancers! This dance troupe has a proud history dating back to the 1960’s and has entertained groups and families across the United States and the globe with their presentation of traditional Basque dances. According to information on their website:

“Oinkari Dancers are not professional performers, but their innate respect for their culture heritage makes the Oinkari performances a whirl of flying feet, snapping fingers, ancient music, and shouts of exhortation a thrilling combination of precision and enthusiasm.”

This will be a performance filled with enthusiasm and you won’t want to miss it! You can read more about the Oinkari Basque Dancers in English or the traditional Basque language of Euskara.

With all of the fantastic information, great speakers, entertainment, and a city that will have you at hello, there’s nothing more to think about. You need to be in Boise for this conference! Good, it’s decided then, we will see you in Boise, April 22-24, 2018, for the WASFAA Together We Rise Conference. We are looking forward to it and trust you are excited too!

CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE CONFERENCE MINI-SITE

APRIL 22-24
2018 WASFAA CONFERENCE
BOISE, IDAHO
REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HEA – ARE WE THERE YET?

Tami Sato  
Marshall B. Ketchum University  
WASFAA Federal Relations Chair

We had some hopeful action with the House education committee passing the PROSPER Act. It had a few things we liked like elimination of loan fees, loan repayment options and FAFSA simplification. But there were many things that would really change how we do things like the revisions to R2T4 that would make the schools responsible for repayment of grants and loans or using a repayment rate instead of the long used CDR. The Senate education committee hopes to have their HEA bill out by spring. They have indicated that they would not be using the PROSPER Act as a base. The Democrats and Republicans have released their priorities. What we should look for are the areas of overlap. Even though the Republicans are the majority in both houses, they will need some Democratic votes. Here are the reasons we probably will not see a passage of a final HEA bill in 2018.

- 2018 is a midterm election year and this will affect the voting and attention congressional leaders have to work.
- There are some overlaps in priorities, but also wide differences such as with loan forgiveness and risk-sharing ideas.
- The House does not have PROSPER Act on the schedule for a full floor vote.
- The House bill is more conservative; Senate will be more moderate.
- If you remember “School House Rock”, we have to go through the steps of both bills passing out of Committee, being marked-up, passing out of the full House and Senate, having a Conference Committee work out differences, have both chambers pass a final version and finally have the President sign it into law.

So to answer the question of the title of this article, odds are in the negative. To end on a positive note, what this does is give us a longer window of time to advocate for what we would like to see in the final bill. What changes would be best for our students? What changes would ease our office load so that we have more time to counsel and educate our students?
NASFAA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER

Anthony Morrone  
Director of Financial Aid  
NEVADA STATE COLLEGE

Thank you so much to the WASFAA Scholarship Committee for granting me the opportunity to attend this year’s NASFAA Leadership & Legislative Conference & Expo in Washington, D.C. during the last week of February. This event delivered a “one-two punch” in the #Fight4FinAid efforts promoted by NASFAA. During the first portion, the 300-plus registrants broke out into their respective tracks to focus on their areas of interest, while on the last day many of the participants met with their elected representatives to discuss our concerns for the future of financial aid.

The first portion of the conference offered attendees the choice of four distinct “pathways,” including New and Aspiring Aid Directors, Fundamentals of Enrollment Management, Strategic Enrollment Management, and the track that I selected based on my role as president (now past) of the Nevada Association of Financial Aid Administrators (NAFAA), the Association Management pathway. This group included elected officers and board members from the six regional associations as well as the individual state associations. During eight sessions presented on this topic over two days, we explored the various considerations an association leader must remain aware of, including legal obligations, effective governance, running successful meetings, building teams and promoting volunteerism. One of the key takeaways from hearing from the various associations was that, even though we may not follow the same strict seating policies as the eastern associations, WASFAA does an amazing job of serving its diverse membership, which is spread over the largest geographic area in the nation.

At the end of the second day we began to transition into the “Hill Visit” portion of the Expo. NASFAA staffs helped us to prepare for our visits by providing tips and pointers, as well as acting out some best-case and worst-case scenarios. At this point, I really began to feel the pressure, as I had not even considered some of the worst-case scenarios. Immediately after, the WASFAA delegation met to prepare for the group meetings some of us would be attending, and this helped to calm my nerves a bit. After a review of our materials and a good night’s rest, I was ready to hit the Hill for a long morning’s worth of meetings.
On the drive to the Capitol, my Uber driver shared that her daughter had benefitted from financial aid to achieve her degrees, and that she was so appreciative of the work that we do. This was a great start to the day, and reminded me of why I was there. The first three meetings were on my own with staffers from the offices of Representative Jacky Rosen, Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto and Senator Dean Heller. During these meetings I had the opportunity to discuss challenges facing students in Nevada, and some of the merits and concerns around proposals made by the House in the PROSPER Act. After joining up with the WASFAA delegation, we moved on to a meeting with House Committee on Education and the Workforce policy advisor Emily Slack. During this meeting, we had the opportunity to share WASFAA’s concerns about specific details of the proposed legislation, from the perspective of our own schools and states. At the end of the meeting, though we did not all come to consensus, I believe we each walked away with a better understanding of where each side was coming from.

Thank you again to WASFAA for making this journey possible to me, as I count it as one of the most important opportunities in my financial aid career.

**STATE NEWS**

**Daniel Reed**  
*2018 CASFAA Past-President*  
Associate Director of Financial Aid  
Point Loma Nazarene University

California’s aid administrators continue to be active through this season of finishing out 17/18 students and getting to know the 18/19 class. Can you believe many of these traditional incoming freshmen were born in 2000? Or even 2001? The future of America is truly emerging, and we must do our part to shape it.

CASFAA’s Annual Day at the Capitol in March aims to do just this, with the Executive Council and other interested members meeting up with State lawmakers, the Legislative Analyst Office, the budget office, and key consultants to let them know what they do matters to CA’s students. It is a grueling 2 days, but well worth it to communicate the needs of our unique populations. It is a privilege to unite all five CA college segments in this day of advocacy with a united voice on key issues.

As my role as CASFAA President drew to a close, I was proud to hand the reigns over to CSU Sacramento’s Anita Kermes. I’d like to share some of her vision for the organization from her opening speech at our last annual conference: “Now more than ever –we need to continue to speak out about the need for increased funding, the need to maintain the integrity of our federal and state aid programs without impeding our ability to help our students, and the need for simplification so that we can focus on what we do best. After all, Isn’t that why we are here? To help all students achieve the dream? It starts in small ways – planting a seed – daring them to dream of what may be possible. To believe that College is Possible.”

I’m looking forward to a great year for CASFAA under Anita’s leadership!

**Linnea Todd**  
*2018 Washington State President*  
**ctcLink Campus Solutions Process Specialist**  
Seattle Central Community College

Hello, WASFAA colleagues! I am writing to wish you all best wishes for a successful, fulfilling and hopefully WARM spring quarter! I have some exciting news to share from Washington State:

- In partnership with the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC), WFAA is hosting several Spring Counselor Workshops, geared toward K-12 administrators and counselors, at 10 different locations throughout the state during the months of February and March. These free workshops combine training on college readiness, financial aid basics, interpreting award letters, and navigating special circumstances with students. More information can be found here: https://www.wsac.wa.gov/spring.
• In early March, the Washington legislature approved a 2018 supplemental budget that provided many additional funds for both K-12 and higher education, including $18.5 million additional dollars to help fully fund the WA State Need Grant program.

• The legislature also affirmed its support of DACA-status students by expanding the eligibility definition for the need-based College Bound Scholarship program to all resident students in House Bill 1488.

• In Senate Bill 6274, postsecondary pathways and scholarship funding for former foster and unaccompanied homeless youth were expanded to include apprenticeship programs.

As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, Brian Dixon (of Washington State University fame) will be taking over as Washington President at the beginning of July, so this may be the last newsletter article you read from me for the foreseeable future. As we wrapped up the WASFAA Executive Council transition retreat in February, it suddenly dawned on me that my travel schedule will not be nearly as hectic after the conclusion of the WASFAA Conference this April. Sadly, that also means that I won’t see many of you nearly as often as I would like once I conclude my term as President. During my tenure, I have been honored to make both acquaintances and friends at the state, regional and national levels. There have been many fun-filled moments, lots of opportunities for learning and advocating, and even some challenging conversations that have helped me to grow both personally and professionally. I also want to extend my thanks to Helen Faith, our 2017-2018 WASFAA President, for her leadership during my time on the EC. She has a great capacity for working hard, playing hard and ensuring all voices are heard, which has made quite the impact on me and my fellow WASFAA members. To the rest of the WASFAA executive council, thank you for welcoming me into the “family” and allowing me to express my opinions, take ownership and drag several of you out past your bedtimes to enjoy our host cities. And to anyone who is reading this and has never had the opportunity to serve on WASFAA leadership-- I encourage you not miss out on an additional year of awesomeness, Click here to get involved!

WASFAA’s committee chairs and event coordinators are always, always looking for new folks to bring into the fold, but it can be difficult to keep track of all of our members and their volunteer interests. So I challenge you to take that first step by emailing an executive council member—or tapping my shoulder at the WASFAA Conference—and we will get you connected to opportunities to serve!

Lastly, I leave you with a couple of my favorite reads from this past year that I hope will encourage and challenge your heart and mind. The first is Paying the Price: College Costs, Financial Aid, and the Betrayal of the American Dream, by Sara Goldrick-Rab, which examines some of the unspoken, outdated assumptions about higher education and poses some challenges to historic methods of collecting and interpreting data to measure effectiveness. The second book, So You Want to Talk About Race, by Ijemia Oluo, provides some fresh, “real talk” about the complexities of the American racial landscape.
SAVE THE DATE
WASFAA Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute
University of Nevada | Reno, Nevada | June 4-8, 2018

WASFAA SISTER DALE BROWN SUMMER INSTITUTE JUNE 4-8, 2018 IN RENO, NEVADA

You can earn NASFAA Professional Credentials at the WASFAA Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute. A professional credential benefits you by:

- Expanding your student financial aid knowledge
- Improving your job performance and service to students
- Providing tangible evidence of your knowledge for employers
- Differentiating between you and less qualified personnel
- Giving you and your organization a competitive edge

Currently, Financial Aid Administrators in the WASFAA region have earned 1,323 NASFAA credentials! Each NASFAA credential costs up to $400 for learning materials and testing; however, attendees at the WASFAA Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute can earn up to 16 credentials for the registration price of $775. A NASFAA Credentialled faculty member will teach each topic offered. After completion of the institute, attendees will have access to the set of learning materials and credential tests in their assigned track.

Visit the 2018 Summer Institute Website for more information and a draft schedule to help determine which track is right for you and register today!