Get Involved with WASFAA!

2019-2020 NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT, VICE PRESIDENT & SECRETARY

Deadline to Submit is Thursday, October 18th

OCTOBER 2018 PRESIDENT'S HIGHLIGHTS

Ashley Munro
Associate Director, University of Alaska-Fairbanks
Fairbanks, Alaska

October is my favorite month. I love the first snowfall of the year and carving pumpkins. I’ve been looking forward to this October for a year now, because I’m excited to attend four state conferences this month. Yep- FOUR conferences! I look forward to meeting new people and recognizing faces in Boise, Yakima, Reno and Palm Desert. I hope to see you in one of these locations.

If not there, maybe I’ll see you in Phoenix, Arizona in November for the Jerry R. Sims Management and Leadership Institute. November 7-9, about 20 new or aspiring financial aid directors will gather at The Mission Palms in Tempe to discuss compliance, running an aid office and many other great leadership topics. I attended MLI several years ago in Lake Tahoe during a snowstorm- it was great!

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I thoroughly enjoyed learning from some of the western region’s experienced financial aid leaders. The skills I learned at this event have helped me over the last few years. My favorite sessions included tips for building a team with retreat planning and decision making.

The Fall Training series kicked off in Hawaii and Alaska in September. The topic of SAP combined with difficult conversations and negotiating skills works really well together. All of the staff in my office, plus many academic advisors attended the Alaska training and we’ll be practicing our negotiation skills with each other and with students as we wrap up the fall semester start and head into spring registration season.

This month, I’d like to say a special thank you to the Communications Committee. You hear from them often. Nic Dehaan and his committee put together this newsletter each month, send out announcements and reminders about our events and training opportunities, and update WASFAA’s social media pages. This year, they are taking on a special task of revitalizing the WASFAA logo as we prepare for our 50th anniversary conference in May. If you have ideas for the logo, or would like to be involved in editing the newsletter or engaging WASFAA members, reach out to the Communications Committee and volunteer.

Ashley Munro
2018-2019 WASFAA President
Hello WASFAA! I can’t believe it’s already October! I’m looking forward to beautiful weather here in Phoenix, AZ. Oh, and did I mention MLI November 7-9 here in Tempe, AZ? Make sure you follow the link in this month’s article to register.

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 October 30th.

WASFAA Social Media Links

WASFAA Communications Committee

Sun Ow • David Downing • Ashley Coleman • Wendy Olson

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

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.
The Jerry R. Sims WASFAA Management & Leadership Institute (MLI) is WASFAA’s premier training event for financial aid directors, associate or assistant directors, and other professionals who aspire to leadership roles within the student aid profession. MLI offers attendees a unique opportunity to network with their peers in a collaborative and engaging cohort setting, led by experienced faculty who are themselves accomplished leaders within their institutions, and the financial aid community.

MLI is limited to approximately 25 attendees and is designed to maximize your interaction with the MLI faculty in a collaborative and engaging environment. You will meet with faculty and your peers in large group training sessions as well as in small group coaching/mentoring sessions to help you sharpen your management skills and enhance your leadership abilities as we look to the future of student aid administration together.

Questions? Contact the MLI Chair, Jim Brooks at brooksja@uoregon.edu.

MLI Faculty
- Phil LeBlanc, University of Phoenix
- Jim Brooks, University of Oregon
- Teresa Buchmann, Green River Community College
- Mary McGlothlan, Concordia University
- Isabelle Mora, California State University – East Bay
- Lauren Patterson, The Art Institute of Portland

Don't miss your chance to attend!

JERRY R. SIMS MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Nov. 7-9, 2018 | Tempe, AZ

Click here for more details
NASFAA MVP: SARAH EVERITT

Gonzaga University’s Director of Financial Aid Operations and WASFAA’s very own Training Committee member Sarah Everitt was recently selected as a NASFAA MVP (Most Valuable Professional).

We’re incredibly proud of Sarah and her achievements not only at her institution but also with WASFAA. Take a few minutes to read the great write up NASFAA did on Sarah at: https://www.nasfaa.org/news-item/16337/MVP_Sarah_Everitt

WASFAA LOGO DESIGN CONTEST REMINDER

WASFAA is looking to update their logo for the 21st Century. We are seeking current WASFAA members who can design a creative, innovative and professional logo to replace the current WASFAA Logo to celebrate WASFAA’s 50th Anniversary.

The designer of the winning submission will win one free conference registration to the 2019 Annual WASFAA Conference this coming May in Tempe, AZ.

Click here to learn more and instructions on how to submit your winning design
CALL FOR 2019-2020 NOMINATIONS

It’s that time of year again when we reach out and ask you to step up to help lead this amazing organization for the 2019-20 year. We’re seeking candidates for four positions--President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary, and Ethnic Diversity Representative-at-Large. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved and make an impact on our important profession! Nominations are due Thursday, October 18, and the nomination form is available at https://wasfaa.org/docs/forms/exec_nom.html

We’re looking for a vibrant, dedicated, energetic, diverse group of individuals representing our myriad institutions and states to help WASFAA fulfill our vision: “To cultivate an increasingly educated society by supporting and furthering the work of informed, ethical, and diverse student financial aid administrators and related professionals.” If this is work you feel passionate about, we invite you to join us!

Here’s an overview of what’s required of each position, along with the person who’s currently filling that role for the 2018-19 year:

President-Elect (Scott Cline from California College of the Arts for 2018-19)
The core responsibilities are to learn the duties of President in preparation for assuming the position after the 2019 conference and to serve as a voting member of the 2018-19 WASFAA Executive Council. The President-Elect also chairs the Policies & Procedures Committee and the Bylaws Committee, and serves as a member of the Fiscal Planning Committee and the Nominations and Elections Committee. This position requires a three-year commitment, comprised of a year each serving as President-Elect, President, and Past President.

Vice President (John Bender of Lewis-Clark State College in Idaho for 2018-19)
The core responsibilities include performing the President’s duties when the President is absent, serving as a voting Executive Council member, maintaining the WASFAA calendar, reviewing monthly financial reports, approving reimbursements for the Treasurer, and reviewing insurance contracts. The Vice President also serves on the Fiscal Planning Committee and authorizes and reviews a biennial fiscal review. The Vice President serves a one-year term.

Secretary (David Downing of Arizona State University for 2018-19)
The core responsibilities of the Secretary are to record, distribute, and post minutes from Executive Council, Fiscal Planning, and Strategic Planning meetings; serve as a voting member of the Executive Council; and create and administer a variety of surveys, including annual elections, votes on bylaws changes, and membership surveys. The Secretary also maintains and distributes a to-do list for review and action by the Executive Council and performs other related duties. The Secretary serves a one-year term.

Ethnic Diversity Representative-at-Large (Kaleo Domingo of Chaminade University of Honolulu)
The core responsibilities of the Ethnic Diversity Representative-at-Large are to serve as the chair of the Ethnic Diversity Action Committee and as a voting member of the Executive Council. The Ethnic Diversity Representative-at-Large serves a one-year term.

If you’d like to chat about a position that might interest you, please feel free to reach out to the current office holders! Our contact information is available at https://wasfaa.org/docs/committees/ExecutiveCouncil/index.html We also have a wealth of information about each role in our Policies & Procedures Manual at https://wasfaa.org/docs/about/PnP.pdf

(Pro tip #1: if you nominate someone else, make sure they’re ok with it first. Pro tip #2: if you nominate yourself or allow someone else to nominate you, it’s a great idea to chat with your supervisor about it first. Pro tip #3: don’t be afraid of running for office! It’s brave, demonstrates initiative, and raises your professional profile—all good things.)

We look forward to receiving your nominations by October 14. Thank you for all you do to support students and one another!
THE ABCS OF STUDENT FINANCE: ACCESSIBILITY, BORROWING, COMPLETION

Amy Glynn
VP of Financial Aid and Community Initiatives
CampusLogic

Education offers people a way to better themselves, their situation, and the trajectory of their entire family. For many, financial aid is crucial to the higher education journey—for a large percentage of them, it's also a huge barrier. My colleagues and I have spent years working in higher ed, and our combined knowledge of—and passion for—the student finance journey has led us to the concept of the ABCs of Student Finance: Access, Borrowing, and Completion.

We believe that focusing on these three areas drives success for students and institutions alike. By continually developing technology, initiatives, and awareness around these three areas, we can empower schools to help more students change their lives through higher education and the opportunities it provides.

The ABCs of Student Finance: Simple and Complicated
These three words—accessibility, borrowing, completion—seem simple enough, but each is also intricately complicated, and they're all interconnected. These themes affect student outcomes across the higher education journey—beginning, middle, and end—and are three of the most important topics surrounding higher education today. In this article, I'll explain the framework and foundation of these concepts:

Increasing Accessibility
Higher education is often considered the gateway to the American Dream. But not everyone has the same ability to access higher education—to even get a foot in the door. Increasing accessibility means expanding students’ knowledge of institutional options, expanding access to counseling resources so they are making the right decision, and improving accessibility across at-risk populations where education can truly be life-changing.

Reducing Student Borrowing
There’s no question the amount of student loan debt in this country is staggering—$1.5 trillion. But rather than focusing on the number, we should focus on how confused students are about how much they’ve really borrowed. By instituting annual loan counselling and more informative award letters, we can help students make better, more informed choices about the true level of debt they plan to take on—and how it can impact the future.

Driving Completion
The worst type of student debt is debt without a degree, because students who attain credits and incur debt, yet end up with no degree to show for it are more than likely to remain stuck in jobs they would’ve had prior to starting college, only now with less money to survive on. This reality is the greatest failure of the higher education vertical, which is why increasing completion rates is as critical as increasing access and reducing borrowing. Enhancing high school partnerships that focus on each student’s college readiness—rather than eligibility—is a good start.

ABCs of Student Finance: More to Come
Armed with the basics of the ABCs of student finance, I encourage you to add your voice to the discussion. I’ll be expanding on the concepts of accessibility, borrowing, and completion in future articles and would love to know your thoughts. Because if you’re reading this, you—like us—care deeply about providing solutions to the problems facing students in higher education.
Greetings from the great state of Alaska!

Things are well here. We are having an unseasonably warm October with lots of aurora activity (pictured below). Our recent highs have been close to 50, versus the normal October average temperature of 34 degrees, and we are currently enjoying rain instead of snow. I can only remember one Halloween over the last 25 years that the kids didn’t have to wear snowsuits over their costumes for trick or treating. I’m hoping this coming Halloween will be the second year.

On September 28th UAF was lucky enough to host the WASFAA/NASFAA training, “You Said What?! Effective Communication Tools A-SAP”. In addition to financial aid professionals, there were a number of academic and admissions advisors participating. Everyone enjoyed the communication skills training, but the feedback I’ve received from the academic advisors indicated that they especially appreciated having it framed within the Satisfactory Academic Progress context. They are the people in the University of Alaska system who are charged with helping our students fill out their financial aid appeals when they are not meeting SAP standards, so learning more about SAP, as well as how to communicate effectively regarding SAP, was highly valued information.

Our state financial aid association, ALASFAA, is currently holding elections for its Executive Council. Ballots are going out by the end of the day today, and we are hoping to have determined the new EC members by this time next week. We are excited to be moving forward toward providing more resources for the financial aid community in the state of Alaska.

Has it been a while since you updated you volunteer preferences on the WASFAA site? If so, now’s the time to get in there and make sure you’re preferences are correct. To update your preferences, make sure that you’re going to the Volunteer Page on the WASFAA site https://www.wasfaa.org/docs/forms/memVolunteer.html and not trying to update them through your profile.

If you have any questions, contact WASFAA's Volunteer Committee Chair, Mary McGlothlan at mmcglothlan@cup- portland.edu

STATE NEWS

ALASKA

Rebecca Phillips
Financial Aid Advisor
University of Alaska - Fairbanks
Alaska State President
Hi All! We are finally out of the triple digits in Southern Arizona. Yay! Now is the time to pull out our sweaters for when the evenings dip below 70 degrees.

It has been a great year in Arizona far! AASFAA is excited to offer three NASFAA U Credential trainings across our state for the low price of $35.00 for AASFAA members.

• Professional Judgement, Friday, October 12, 2018, Tucson, Arizona
• Verification, Tuesday, October 23, 2018, Mesa, Arizona
• Administrative Capability, Friday, November 2, 2018, Flagstaff, Arizona

Our Spring Conference will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 12th & 13th, 2019 at the beautiful Casino Del Sol: The Sol of Tucson. We are currently looking for presenters—and our registration and agenda will be available soon! The phenomenal WASFAA Training Committee is also conducting a SAP Pre-Conference Training on Monday, February 11th entitled “You Said What?! Effective Communication Tools A-SAP”

We are also looking forward to the WASFAA Conference in Arizona and look forward to seeing everyone there!