

## April 2018 WASFAA President's Highlights

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. 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 WASFAA 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