

## President's Highlights- December

Last month, I got to spend some time in the sun for various events. WASFAA hosted the Jerry R Sims Management and Leadership Conference in Tempe, Arizona. 18 aid administrators learned leadership skills to help them be successful as they advance their careers. You can read some of their stories in this issue of the newsletter. At the same time, the WASFAA Executive Council held the fall meeting to discuss business and prepare plans for the future. We're working hard to get the institutional pricing structure ready for the 2019-2020 membership year and you'll be able to pay one price for everyone at your school starting in January. We're also reviewing the opportunities for expanding training and scholarships for our diverse membership (more about this in the new year!).

I also had the opportunity to attend the NASFAA Board of Directors Meeting. Watching the national association work through similar issues we experience on a smaller scale was interesting. I appreciate the opportunity to observe the board this year, which will prepare me for the "grown-up table" next year.

On my way home from sunny Arizona, I stopped over in Portland to present at the fall training site. I am so glad that I can still participate in the fall training in this small way. WASFAA taught me that I have a passion for training within financial aid and I'm grateful that I could take a day to remember that passion by spending the day teaching WASFAA members how to work through difficult conversations. To everyone that was able to participate in the fall training, I hope you can navigate those conversations more successfully and I wish you the best of luck on the SAP credential test!

Lastly, I would like to share the gratitude I have for those who were nominated for officer positions for the 2019-2020 year. Thank you for being willing to lead the association and to support financial aid administrators. I look forward to working with you next year! Running for offices within WASFAA has been both a personal and professional blessing, and I hope that each of you will be able to say the same thing.

This is a great time of year to be thankful for what we have, and to make goals for what we want in the future. Halfway through my year as WASFAA President, I am thankful for those of you I met on my many travels this fall and I look forward to meeting many more of you during my travels in the spring.

I wish you a happy holiday season- full of pie, peppermint hot chocolates, extra days off and Hallmark movies.

Ashley