

## July 2017 WASFAA President's Letter

It's really, truly summer! Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute was just held in Reno, and it was a resounding success. It was our first time offering three separate tracks: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Students studied financial aid intensively all week long, and in the process, they had fun and got to know one another. I've always said that half of the value of attending conferences and other training opportunities is in the connections you make, and I'm sure our Summer Institute participants made lifelong friends that they'll continue to reach out to throughout their financial aid careers for perspective and advice. This is part of what makes WASFAA and financial aid so special—we connect, we collaborate, and we share a passion for affordable access to higher education. We volunteer our time, energy, and expertise for the greater good—to train and mentor our newer colleagues so they can carry on our legacy of serving needy students and making it possible for them to achieve their dreams.

WASFAA Fall Training is fast approaching now—that's when we bring one day of training to a location near you! We travel to every state in our region to provide training on some of the most in-demand topics of the moment using NASFAA materials, and offering NASFAA credentialing opportunities to participants. It's always an amazing bargain, and that's very intentional—it's of utmost importance to WASFAA that we provide excellent, low-cost in-person training to as many of our members as possible in as many locations as possible. Keep your eyes peeled for more details on this opportunity in the coming months!

We're also preparing for the Jerry R. Sims Management and Leadership Institute (MLI for short). We've selected our location—the lovely Benson Hotel in downtown Portland, which is close to plenty of dining and entertainment options, and has easy access to light rail and the famous street car. We also have an impressive faculty lineup with rich and varied experiences to share. If you're at a transitional point in your career and would benefit from focused skill development in the areas of leadership and management, this is the event for you! I was fortunate to be able to attend MLI in 2006, shortly after starting my first financial aid directorship, and it was a game-changer. I strongly recommend it.

While you're penciling in your activities for the year, remember to include the next WASFAA conference in beautiful Boise! The dates will be April 22-24, 2018. We'll be sure to share some fun facts about Boise and tidbits about the conference program as it shapes up. It may seem far away now, but it'll be here before you know it!

Stay tuned for another update in a month. In the mean time, feel free to drop me a line anytime to let me know what WASFAA can do for you! [faithh@lanecc.edu](mailto:faithh@lanecc.edu)

Warmly,  
Helen Faith