WASFAA President's Highlights, May 2017

Helen Faith
Director of Financial Aid and Interim Dean of Enrollment and Veterans Services
Lane Community College
Eugene, Oregon

Hello, WASFAA members! I'm excited to embark upon my presidential year of service to you. I am grateful and humbled by the opportunity to support WAFAA's newly updated 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."

I hope many of you were able to attend the recent WASFAA conference in beautiful downtown Seattle. In addition to the excellent conference sessions I attended, I also enjoyed running along the waterfront in preparation for the Eugene Half Marathon, dining at wonderful and unique restaurants, going out to breakfast at the Starbucks Reserve Roastery, and performing at a local karaoke establishment. Not surprisingly, what made these experiences so special was the wonderful company I was in—the company of fellow aid administrators from across the WASFAA region who share our passion for affordable access to quality postsecondary education. Financial aid professionals are among the finest, smartest, hardest-working, and kindest people I've ever had the pleasure of knowing, and I'm so grateful every day to have fallen into this challenging and rewarding profession. If you didn't make it to the conference this year, I hope you'll start planning now to attend the Annual Conference in beautiful Boise, Idaho next year!

In the coming year, I look forward to listening to what you want and need from WASFAA—I urge you to make your voices heard by reaching out to me with your ideas and concerns. WASFAA is here to serve our members with quality training and professional development to enable you to serve students as effectively as possible while staying abreast of regulatory changes and best practices. Thanks to the dedicated, collaborative, careful work of Past Presidents and Executive Council members who have so responsibly attended to our organization's financial health, we continue to maintain a strong financial position, and I will continue to support fiscal prudence and sustainability during the coming year. At the same time, our profession is saying farewell to many long-time giants in our profession who have served students and the financial aid community for decades, and we need to ensure that newer aid professionals have the training, support, and mentoring they need to develop into tomorrow's financial aid leaders. I look forward to working with the Executive Council in the coming year to begin to lay the groundwork for a mentoring program to support this important goal. Finally, WASFAA has had ongoing discussions for a number of years asking this important question: what is the most effective membership structure to support consistent communication, member involvement, volunteerism, and simplicity? There

is some evidence to support an institutional membership, wherein your institution would belong to WASFAA, and all financial aid staff at your institution could reap the benefits of WASFAA membership.

In just a few short weeks, the Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute will be held in Reno from June 5-9. This intensive training event has traditionally provided a wonderful jump-start for newer aid staff, and in response to member interest, an intermediate track and a brand new advanced track have been added as well. We have outstanding faculty and an impressive training plan lined up for you—I hope to see you there! We will also have our next WASFAA Executive Council on June 8-9, where we will continue the work of the association in planning upcoming events, ensuring the association's fiscal health, and beginning to implement our new 2017-2020 Strategic Plan.

Our elected officers, committee chairs, and other appointees are listed below. They represent the tip of the iceberg in terms of the many volunteers who support WASFAA and make it possible for our association to accomplish the enormous amount of work involved in bringing you, our esteemed members, a broad array of excellent training and professional development offerings. I would like to offer my deep gratitude to all of the individuals listed below, as well as to every single volunteer who has stepped up to help. If you haven't volunteered for WASFAA yet, I strongly encourage you to do so—there is an enormous variety of opportunities available to suit your time constraints and skill set. Moreover, the rewards far outstrip any amount of time or work involved, I promise!

Elected 2017-18 WASFAA EC members
President: Helen Faith
President-Elect: Ashley Munro
Past President: Mike Johnson
Vice President: Scott Cline
Secretary: Mary McGlothlan
Ethnic Diversity Representative-at-Large: Shawn Domingo
Treasurer: Mindy Bergeron

State Presidents
Linnea Todd, Washington
Mark Diestler, Oregon
Daniel Reed, California
John Bender, Idaho
Anthony Morrone, Nevada
Diana Dowling, Arizona
Fa'aana Tosi, Alaska
Sherrie Padilla, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands

Appointees
Segmental Representative-At-Large: Phil LeBlanc
Associate Representative-At Large: Greg Kerr
Awards & Scholarships Chair: Sandi Guidry
Communications Chair: David Downing
Conference Co-chairs: Nicole McMillin and David Shook
Electronic Services Chair: Ashley Salisbury
Federal Relations Chair: Tami Sato
Fiscal Planning Chair: Barbara Bickett and Steve Herndon
Fund Development Chair: Sun Ow
Historical Archives Chair: Ashley Salisbury
Jerry R. Sims Management & Leadership Institute Chair: Doug Severs
Membership Chair: Dewayne Barnes
Policies & Procedures Chair, By-laws chair: Ashley Munro
Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute Co-chairs: Kelley Christianson and Laura Hughes
Site Selection Chair: Leonard Walker
State Presidents Chair: Mary Frances Causey
Strategic Planning Chair: Mike Johnson
Training Co-chairs: Sarah Everitt and Thalassa Naylor
Travel Coordinator: Sandi Guidry
Volunteer Development Chair: Ashley Coleman
Federal Liaison: Kimberly Wells