

President's Highlights- October

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! 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.