



Kentucky Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

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A message from our President

Rhonda Bryant

Dear KASFAA Colleagues,

I am sure that many of you, like me, were eagerly anticipating the fall conference in Louisville. It was to be our first in-person conference in two years! The board considered the surge in COVID cases, the low registration numbers, and the cost of offering a conference that would be poorly attended before making the decision to cancel the conference. It was not an easy decision, but it was the right call for the association. We were fortunate that our contract with the conference hotel allowed us to cancel without penalty. Credit for that piece of good luck goes to Chester Priest, Site Selection Committee Chair, for insisting on a contract clause that allowed for cancellation due to COVID.

Angel Miller, Fall Program Chair, and the members of the Program Committee must be commended for their work to develop sessions and solicit speakers and presenters. They created a balanced program to benefit new and experienced members. You would have loved

it! After the decision to cancel the conference, they immediately regrouped to salvage sessions that could be offered in a virtual format this fall. Their resolve is inspiring!

We will be working to develop the spring conference in-person in Lexington at the Clarion Hotel Conference Center – North on Newtown Pike, April 13-15. Beth Mitchell and Roxanne Lewis have graciously agreed to serve as Spring Conference Co-Chairs. Our theme is “Not All Heroes Wear Capes,” in recognition of the dedicated people across all occupations whose selflessness has made the pandemic less oppressive than it could have been. If you read the theme and thought “dress-up opportunities,” you are not wrong. Any good conference involves a costume change, so come prepared to have fun!

Sandy Neel, Vice President of Training, and Bryson Davis, Training Committee Chair, are working to develop virtual and in-person trainings. KASFAA purchased NASFAA U training topics to provide

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upcoming events

November
Virtual Trainings:
Stay Tuned!

November 2021
New Aid Officers
Training
more information on
the way!

November 30 –
December 3, 2021
FSA Conference,
Virtual

February 18 – 23, 2022
2022 SASFAA
Conference
Montgomery, AL

April 13 – 15, 2022
KASFAA Spring
Conference,
Clarion Hotel,
Lexington, KY

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members the opportunity to learn and earn NASFAA U credentials at a fraction of the usual cost to schools. However, we must teach them in-person to offer the testing credential. Keep an eye out for listserv, Facebook, Twitter and website messages announcing when and where trainings will take place.

As KASFAA President, I am proud to represent Kentucky on the SASFAA Board. I finally met my counterparts from the other SASFAA states during a couple of in-person meetings over the summer. The ease of sharing ideas and developing partnerships in-person allowed us to be much more productive than virtual meetings had been.

SASFAA Conference will be in-person February 18-23 in Montgomery, Alabama. Mark your calendars, save the date, and begin investigating airfares or carpool options. Remember, SASFAA needs volunteers too! Consider volunteering for a committee. It is a great way to improve job skills, learn how the association works, connect with colleagues and build your resume. Details of committee duties are on the SASFAA website. The conference host city of Montgomery has a rich history tied to the Civil Rights Movement. It offers visitors the opportunity to stand in sacred places in our nation's history.

As we approach mid-term of the fall semester, I hope you are coping with the stressful burdens that the pandemic has thrust upon us personally and professionally. I remind myself that I really cannot control anything but what I think and feel. Sometimes that helps! Please take care of yourselves and remember that we will get through this.

All the best,

Rhonda Bryant
KASFAA PRESIDENT 21-22

From the editor

We encourage letters to the editor, original articles, photographs, announcements and reports. Items of interest are gladly accepted and can be given to any member of the newsletter committee:

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Committee:

Rhonda Bryant, President

Sandy Neel, Vice President for
Training

KASFAA offers scholarships for leadership development

Sandy Neel
Vice President for Training

In April 2017, KASFAA developed two scholarships as part of the Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) program. These scholarships were developed to encourage new aid officers training, to mentor potential leaders, and to provide professional development.

Training is so important for Financial Aid Administrators new and seasoned. With the struggles of the continuing pandemic and tightening institutional budgets, training new staff or developing leadership skills has been difficult. The KASFAA LEAD scholarship

offers you the opportunity to take advantage of different trainings without fully impacting your institutional budget.

To find out more information about the KASFAA LEAD program and the scholarships that are offered, visit the KASFAA website at https://kasfaa.com/awards_KASFAALEAD.html.



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**Interest accrues during deferment periods.

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KASFAA's Long-Range Plan

Sandy Neel — Spalding University, 2020-2021 Chair

Last year the 2016-2021 Long-Range Plan (LRP) that Jennifer Priest and her committee worked so hard on came to an end. Looking back over the last five years, KASFAA should be proud of what we have accomplished as an Association.

Five years ago, we began State Legislative Days, and although it may not have been a totally new idea, it was new for KASFAA members. Thanks to Erin Klarer for all of her hard work, this goal came to fruition the first year.

Although we could not hold a Legislative Day in 2020-21 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we will resume this activity again in the future.

Offering training at various sites across the state as well as offering webinars to reach those unable to attend the KASFAA Conferences, was another accomplishment from the LRP. We held NASFAA Credential training events at Hopkinsville Community College, Elizabethtown Community College, and Ashland Community and Technical College. Four webinars were held this year on various topics.

Another charge from the LRP was making the Board Meeting and Business Meeting minutes available on the KASFAA Website. Thanks to Jason Tretter this was accomplished and in case you didn't know, these can be found under the Member Section of the website.

Thanks to a recommendation from the LRP Committee, we are now once again voting at the

Spring Conference, and the results of the elections are announced while we are at the conference. This gives us a chance to congratulate the newly elected officers in person and the chance to thank those who didn't get elected for having the courage to put themselves out there to run for an office.

A written investment strategy was created and implemented. We received a commitment from the Board to ensure that the KASFAA budgets end in the black at least three years out of five years on a rolling basis to ensure the current and future stability of the association.

Diversity Chair Cedric Trigg and his Committee developed a Diversity Statement and recommended to the Board that KASFAA adopt the statement. That statement can be found on the website under the "About" tab with the Mission and Vision Statement.

KASFAA, it has been an amazing five years, and moving forward, we can expect nothing less! A new 5-year Long-Range plan that was adopted by a special membership vote, went into effect beginning July 1, 2021. The new LRP was placed on the KASFAA website. It will be exciting to see how KASFAA grows and prospers under the new plan. Personally, I would like to thank all the hard work the Long-Range Planning Committee did in 2020-21 under the crazy circumstance we all endured.

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A message from our Past-President

Michelle Standridge — Immediate Past President

Hello KASFAA! What a roller coaster of a year we had in 20-21. My term as KASFAA president ended on June 30th, 2021, and I can't express how proud I am of the 20-21 KASFAA Board. This board went into their roles without the benefit of a transition meeting. So many of our board chairs were new to the KASFAA Board and they began their roles without the benefit of some training, yet they all persevered. I thank each and every one of the board members for hanging in there until the end and hope to serve next to them in the future.

With no end in sight of our virtual world, my goals for the year truly became about training and supporting our membership, and I feel like we were fairly successful in our efforts. With the leadership of Sarah Cowan and April Tretter, we were able to offer both our fall and spring conferences virtually. Our VP of training, Bryson Davis, planned and successfully executed a series of virtual trainings. We also had several virtual opportunities to mingle, meet and greet and decompress with colleagues.

A huge shout out to Michael Birchett for setting up our Remo account and taking on the lead. He did such an amazing job that many of our SAFSSA states looked to him for guidance and support in setting up their own

Remo accounts. Using Remo in the spring allowed us to mingle and visit outside of sessions and visit with our vendor/sponsors who continued to support our organization when they couldn't meet with us in person.

I am happy to share that we recognized a group of members, many of whom have retired or have moved away, at the only hybrid event offered to the membership in the 20-21 year this past spring. We recognized nine amazing individuals with either Lifetime Membership or Herb Vescio awards. It was a beautiful night with lots of fellowship and love.

There are far too many people to thank individually for making the 20-21 year one that I am proud of. The support that the KASFAA membership shows for each other and the organization continues to amaze me. I hope that each member takes the time to sign up to volunteer for a committee to support President Rhonda Bryant's board. If you aren't sure where to start, I am happy to help.

Best,

Michelle Standridge

Immediate Past-President 20-21



Volunteer for KASFAA

Around the Bluegrass

A Special Thank You

A special thank you to Anita Olivencia, FSA Trainer for kicking off our Virtual Webinars for the Fall semester on October 7, 2021. Anita presented on R2T4 in Modules and discussed the new R2T4 regulations that went into effect July 1, 2021.

Thomas promoted at Berea

Chris Thomas is now serving as the Assistant Director of Student Financial Aid Services at Berea College. Congrats Chris!



THOMAS

Berea welcomes Robbins, Gosney

Please join us in welcoming Danielle Robbins and Johauna Gosney to KASFAA. They joined the Student Financial Aid Office at Berea College within the past year.



ROBBINS



GOSNEY

Sollberger earns NASFAA certification



Campbellsville staff celebrate their director this summer. Josie Smith, front left, Robyn Sollberger and Margie Walker. Audrey Price, left top row, Ellen Goff, Christy Spurling, Brooke Gupton and Tim Judd.

Congratulations to Robyn Sollberger, Director of Financial Aid at Campbellsville University for earning the NASFAA Financial Aid Administrator Certificate in June. “We are blessed to have a leader like Robyn! She inspires us to produce quality work and continue learning so we can best serve our students at Campbellsville University!” said Audrey Price



SOLLBERGER

Spalding promotes Campbell

Sean Campbell was promoted from Financial Aid Assistant to Financial Aid Counselor at Spalding University. Congratulations Sean!



CAMPBELL

Sandy Neel is the proud grandmother of two beautiful grandchildren!

Sandy's daughter Kelli and her husband Josh were very fortunate to be able to foster to adopt two beautiful siblings born 13 months apart! Kelli and Josh brought each of them home from the hospital at birth. Now, 2 1/5 years old and 18 months old Aiden and Raegan are keeping Mom and Dad, GIGI and Uncle Cody on their toes!



Aiden, born March 2019

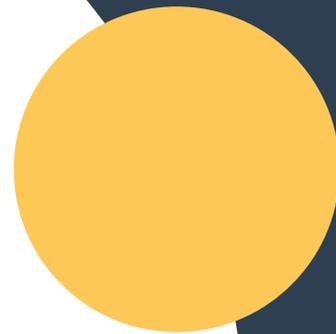


Raegan, born April 2020

Spalding welcomes Graviss

Spalding University welcomed Dawn Graviss to their staff in April of 2021. After a small hiatus from Financial Aid, Dawn found she missed the craziness too much and joined our team at Spalding. Dawn brings 30 years of financial aid experience from Bellarmine University, and we feel very lucky to add her to our team! Welcome Dawn.

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Madisonville offers treats to complete FAFSA

Did someone say FAFSA? Here's how Madisonville Community College Financial Aid Office encouraged their student body to complete FAFSA early. They sponsored a Treats no Tricks FAFSA month during October. They celebrated the month with treats- no tricks for every student that completed the FAFSA in their office. Not only did they pass out treats daily, they were able to enter a drawing to win a \$25.00 gift card to Wal-Mart. Students just had to stop by the financial aid office and complete the 2022/2023 FAFSA to enter the drawing!

M & M Monday



Twix Tuesday



Whatchamacallit Wednesday



Twix Thursday (because Twix bars are so good, we celebrate twice)



Fruity Pebble Friday



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KET hosts Call-In Show

The annual KET Call-In Show aired on October 18, 2021, at 9 pm EST.

The panelists were Theresa Lowder from Berea College, Bob Fultz from Georgetown College, Joplin Rice from KHEAA, and Runan Evans from BCTC.

The panelists answered questions about scholarships, the FAFSA application, loans, state grants, and gave helpful advice to viewers. On behalf of the membership, THANK YOU to our panelists and KET!



KET welcomes KASFAA's Joplin Rice, far left, Theresa Lowder, Kelsey Starks, Bob Fultz and Runan Evans

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2021-2022

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Runan Evans – Assoc. Governance & Planning
Charles Vinson – Awards
Bob Fultz – Budget and Finance
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Jazzmine Golden – Diversity Concerns
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Theresa Lowder- Legislative
Robyn Sollberger – Membership

Michelle Standridge – Nominations
Stephany Blaney – Outreach/Communications
Angel Miller - Program (Fall)
Beth Mitchell and Roxanne Lewis - Program (Spring)
Sandy Neel – Scholarships
Chester Priest – Site Selection
Bryson Davis – Training (HS Counselor)
Bryson Davis – Training (New Aid and Support Staff)
Dave Bowman – Vendor/Sponsor