

BLUEGRASS STATE

# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2015

Volume 17 Number 9

## UPCOMING

### EVENTS

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**KASFAA Fall Conference**  
Holiday Inn  
Erlanger, KY  
**October 14-16, 2015**

**SASFAA Conference**  
Greensboro, NC  
**February 7-10, 2016**

**KASFAA Spring Conference**  
Clarion Hotel  
**April 13-15, 2016**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Kristie Hughes

Summer Greetings, KASFAA friends! It's hard to believe how quickly this year has flown! I want to thank **Chester Priest** and **Michael Birchett**, along with the entire program committee, for their creativity and hard work in putting together a fantastic spring conference!

Congratulations to **Chester Priest**, recipient of this year's Herb Vescio Distinguished Service Award. I can't think of a more dedicated or more deserving individual! Congratulations also go out to our 2014-15 retirees who were recipients of KASFAA's Lifetime Membership Award - **Pat Arauz, Donna King and Rick Wilson**.

I would also like to extend congratulations to the 2015 KASFAA Professional Development Scholarship recipient, **Sarah Weldy** from Midway College. As the scholarship recipient, Sarah was able to attend the SASFAA New Aid Officers Workshop, held June 14-19 at Thomas More College in Crestview Hills, Kentucky.

**Laura Keown**, KASFAA's 2015-16 President, and I had the pleasure of traveling to St. Pete Beach, Florida June 7-10 to attend the final SASFAA Board meeting for 2014-15 and the Transition meeting for all outgoing 2014-15 and incoming 2015-16 board members.

The final KASFAA 2014-15 Board meeting and Transition meeting was held June 25-26 at General Butler State Park in Carrollton, Kentucky. Plans were made for the upcoming year and plenty of s'mores were enjoyed around the campfire in the evening!

I want to thank the 2014-15 Executive Board and Committee Chairs for their hard work and dedication this past year. I also want to thank each and every one of you for your support and encouragement and for making this year so amazing! It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as president of this wonderful organization. I have absolute confidence that KASFAA has a great year ahead as Laura takes the helm and leads us in 2015-16.

— Kristie Hughes



KASFAA President Kristie Hughes passes the gavel to Laura Keown, 2015-2016 President. Thanks, Kristie for a great year!

## FROM EDITOR Jennifer Toth

We encourage letters to the editor, original articles, photographs, announcements and reports. Items of interest are gladly accepted.

Contact the editor for questions, rates and insertion dates. The KASFAA Newsletter is published three times a year. Graphic and web design provided by KHEAA/KHESLC.

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Jennifer Toth  
KHEAA  
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## Empowering You to Make the BIG...easy



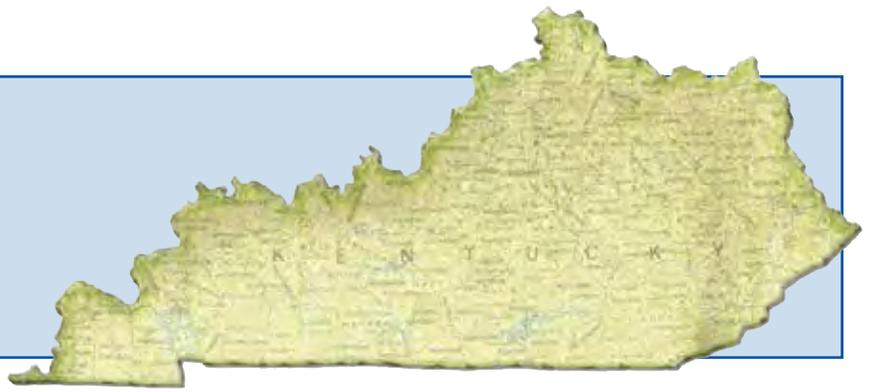
With Portfolio Navigator, your **simple actions** can have a **big impact** on the repayment success of your student loan borrowers.

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# News from around KENTUCKY



## Movers & Shakers

**Midway College** became **Midway University** on July 1, 2015.

**Spalding University:** **Michelle Standridge** has been named as Interim Director of Financial Aid. **Gina Kuzuoka** has joined the Institutional Effectiveness team in the role of Institutional Reporting Liaison-campus wide.

## Berea's Melton retires

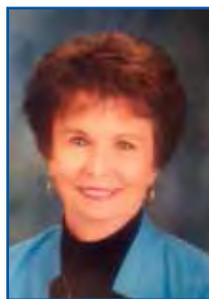
**Nancy Melton** retired from Berea College on June 30, 2015. Nancy submitted the following message to KASF AA:

"I have had the privilege of working at three distinct and unique institutions : Alice Lloyd College, Frontier University, and returned to Berea College, my alma mater for the past six years. Coming back to finish my working career at Berea College has been a lifelong dream.

In retirement, I hope to have more time to pursue my hobbies of reading, bicycling, travelling, sewing, and to spend more time with my mom, children and grandchildren, and husband of 40 years, Bill.

I've often said if our churches and schools had as many volunteers as KASF AA, we'd have a better state in many ways. Keep up the good work of helping students obtain quality educations in our Kentucky colleges and universities.

Take care and may God bless."



Nancy Melton

Nancy Melton  
Director of Student Financial Aid  
Berea College

## Murray's Mitchum announces retirement

From **Lori Mitchum**, Director of Financial Aid, Murray State University:

"I am officially retiring August 31st and have accepted a position with TSAC. I have enjoyed my time at Murray State University, especially working in Financial Aid. Most of all, I value the friendships I made with members from KASF AA and SASFAA. I will still be working with students and financial aid. I hope that our paths will cross again in the future. Other than work, I hope to spend many hours with my children and seven grandchildren."

## KASF AA makes difference with charity donations



Thanks to the generosity of the membership during the spring 2015 conference, KASF AA donated over \$1,200 to the Down Syndrome Association of Central Kentucky (DSACK). DSACK is a dynamic organization that celebrates and supports people with Down syndrome and their families, and educates individuals, families and others throughout Central and Eastern Kentucky. Click [www.dsack.org](http://www.dsack.org) to learn more about this organization.

# SASFAA meets with Congress on aid issues

By Erin Klarer,  
Legislative Issues Committee Chair

On May 12, 2015, representatives from the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SASFAA) member states went to Washington D.C. to meet their elected officials serving on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP).

They discussed many issues that affect student financial aid and suggested ways to improve access and administration. You may have seen some of their pictures on social media as the group adopted the phrase #SASFAAtakesDC.

SASFAA President **Nathan Basford** (Florida State University) and **Jenny Beakley Hammett** (Clemson University) met with staff from Congressman Carlos Curbelo's and Congresswoman Frederica Wilson's offices. "Hill visits are so important for SASFAA members," said Basford. "Elected officials and staffers in every office are looking for experts and trusted advisors on higher education financing issues, and what better resource than those who are working on the ground level in their districts." Hammett also met with Senator Tim Scott, as well as Congressman Joe Wilson.

**Stephanie Miller** (Jackson State University) and **Bob Walker** (Itawamba Community College) met with staff from Congressman Bradley Byrne's office.

**Phillip Hawkins** (University of West Georgia) and **Christen Neher** (Savannah College of Art and Design) met with staff for Senator Johnny Isakson and Congressman Rick Allen. Their discussion focused on the use of prior-prior year income, Free Application of Federal Student Aid (FASFAA) simplification, retaining the subsidy on Stafford student loans, institutional ability to prevent over borrowing, full restoration of Ability to Benefit, retaining the Perkins



KHEAA's Erin Klarer, left, discussed important issues with Rep. Brett Guthrie, R-Bowling Green.

loan program, and the burdens of frequent regulatory changes.

**Erin Klarer** (Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority) presented concerns from her state's schools to Senator Rand Paul's office as well as Congressman Brett Guthrie. "The importance of the Perkins Loan program resonates well with the Kentucky delegation as the program was founded and named for a Kentucky Congressman, the late Carl D. Perkins," said Klarer.

**Sharon Oliver** (North Carolina Central University), **Lisa Koretoff** (Guilford Technical Community College), and **Wanda White** (North Carolina Community College System Office) met with staff for Congresswoman and Chair of the House Higher Education Subcommittee, Virginia

— *Continued on next page*

## SASFAA

Continued from Page 4

Foxx. The NCASFAA group also met with staff for Senator Richard Burr's office and had a great meeting with freshman Congresswoman Dr. Alma S. Adams.

**Heidi Hunter-Goldworthy** (University of Mary Washington) and **Chad Sartini** (Virginia Western Community College) met with staff from Congressmen Bobby Scott and David Bratt's offices.

**Ron Gambill** (EdSouth) and **Celena Tulloss** (University of Tennessee – Knoxville) met with Congressmen John Duncan and Davie Roe, as well as with Senator Bob Corker's office.

The SASFAA group also met with Bob Moran, the HELP Committee's Education Policy Director and legislative aid to the

*“Hill visits are so important for SASFAA members”*

**Nathan Basford**

Chairman, Senator Lamar Alexander, and discussed the many subjects related to the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. A former U.S. Department of Education employee, he arguably is one of the most knowledgeable Hill staffers in regard to federal student aid.

Miller said, “After participating in the Hill visits, I came back encouraged that the goals of

SASFAA and each state association were met with an open mind, and by standing together we can make a difference in not only the present, but also in the future of financial aid policy.”

Many thanks go out to Sharon Oliver for her impeccable organization and diligence as SASFAA Legislative Issues Chair. We hope you will join us next year!

## Sometimes students need an advantage.

**Kentucky Advantage Education Loan** benefits:

- Low interest rates are **FIXED** for the life of the loan and range from 4.95% to 7.59%, based on creditworthiness.
- Could save thousands over competitors' loans.
- Available to college students **and** their parents.
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KENTUCKY  
**ADVANTAGE**  
EDUCATION LOAN

# Thomas More College hosts SASFAA's NAOW workshop

By Sandy Neel  
University of Louisville

People from the nine SASFAA states converged on Thomas More College the week of June 14 for the 2015 New Aid Officer's Workshop (NAOW).

The week started on Sunday with The Application Process, taught so that all participants could potentially be credentialed, and ended on Friday with a federal update by David Bartnicki.

Along with the rigorous curriculum, participants were given time for team-building activities, fellowship and networking.

Kentuckians who participated in the Workshop are **Jennifer Mason**, Thomas More College; **Megan Hollifield**, Campbellsville University; **LaKeesha Turner**, University of Louisville; **Marilyn Parham**, Elizabethtown Community & Technical College; and Sarah Weldy, Midway University. Sarah was KASFAA's NAOW Scholarship winner and like the others, she shined at the workshop!

We were also well-represented with Kentucky colleagues as faculty and staff members. Once again



SASFAA NAOW Kentucky faculty and staff Chester Priest, left, KHEAA/KHESLC; Runan Pendergrast, Bluegrass Community & Technical College; April Tretter, Bellarmine University; Sandy Neel, University of Louisville; Mary Givhan, Thomas More College; and Cedric Trigg, UofL, prepare to wield their magic. Mark Messingschlager, Thomas More College, is absent from photo.

**Chester Priest** was the lead Business Partner at the workshop making sure the participants had team-building and networking activities at night.

**Runan Pendergrast** and **Cedric Trigg** were returning instructors, and **April Tretter** made her teaching debut this year. All three did an excellent job! **Sandy Neel** was responsible for writing the curriculum as the Curriculum Coordinator.

**Mary Givhan** and **Mark Messingschlager** worked tirelessly as site coordinators and they were terrific! One other thing, we all fell in love with **Tommy Mo!**

New Aid participants, faculty and staff came from many different schools from all over the south but they all left as Saints!



**SASFAA NAOW Kentucky representatives: Marilyn Parham, Elizabethtown Community & Technical College; Priest; Megan Hollifield, Campbellsville University; Tretter; LaKeesha Turner, UofL; Neel; Pendergrast; Givhan; Sarah Weldy, Midway University—NAOW Scholarship recipient; Mark Messingschlager, Thomas More College; Trigg. Jennifer Mason, Thomas More College, is absent from photo.**

# Scholarship winner says “Thanks!”

**Submitted by Sarah Weldy,  
Midway University**

I had the great opportunity to attend the 2015 SASFAA New Aid Officers Workshop in June as the KASFAA NAOW Scholarship recipient. It took place right here in Kentucky, at the beautiful Thomas More College, where they treated us like VIP’s all week (thanks, **Mary Givhan!**).

I could not be more thankful for this amazing opportunity provided to me by KASFAA! I have been in the Financial Aid Office at Midway (now) University for almost a year, learning the ins and outs of financial aid and Title IV administration through the day-to-day tasks given me.

Attending NAOW has enriched

what I have learned over this past year by setting a foundation for the knowledge I have attained, equipping me with the resources needed to continue my learning, and providing me with a network of aid professionals to not only seek information from, but to also count as dear friends.

SASFAA provided its participants with wonderful teachers to lead us through many different situations, regulations and financial aid scenarios. I learned so much from my teachers throughout the week. I also value the knowledge I gained from my fellow participants as we discussed how each of our

institutions navigates the policies and regulations, and how our offices have dealt with similar situations.

My understanding of what I need to know is now enhanced by getting to hear about it from all of the different points-of-view shared by my peers.

I wish to express my gratitude again to KASFAA for providing me with the scholarship to attend NAOW.

It has strengthened my excitement of getting involved in KASFAA and representing Kentucky as a part of the Association of Financial Aid Administrators!



# Summer 2015 Update

## Student Aid Disbursements

At the end of the 2015 fiscal year, the Student Aid Branch had disbursed \$209.1 million, or 96%, of the \$218.4 million in available funds.

PROGRAM	EXPENDITURES
KEES	\$107.9 million
CAP Grant	\$60.8 million
KTG	\$28.4 million
National Guard Tuition Award	\$5.5 million
Teacher Scholarship (to Best In Class repayment)	\$1.4 million
KY Coal County College Completion Scholarship	\$1.8 million
Early Childhood Development Scholarship	\$842,800
Osteopathic Medicine Scholarship	\$632,600
Coal County Pharmacy Scholarship	\$483,700
Mary Jo Young Scholarship	\$482,900
Teacher Scholarship (to scholarship recipients)	\$434,300
KHEAA Work-Study Program	\$312,500
Go Higher Grant	\$161,900

## Agencies' social media presence grows

KHESLC's and KHEAA's social media presence grew considerably during FY2015. The numbers show that from June 30, 2014, through June 30, 2015:

- **KHESLC likes** on Facebook grew 57 percent.
- The number of people following **KHESLC on Twitter** increased 46 percent.
- **KHEAA likes** on Facebook grew 27 percent.
- The number of people following **KHEAA on Twitter** increased 32 percent.

Follow and Like us for up-to-date information to share with your students and parents on social media.

## Scott named outreach counselor for Central Kentucky

David Scott has been named the KHEAA outreach counselor for Central Kentucky. His territory encompasses Bourbon, Fayette, Franklin, Harrison, Jessamine, Scott and Woodford counties. David joined KHEAA in 2013 as the counselor on the College Info Road Show.

## Gortney to work with college coaches

Summer Gortney has been named the advisor to the Kentucky College Coaches Program by KHEAA, which sponsors coaches in 30 Kentucky high schools. Summer most recently was the regional outreach counselor for Central Kentucky.

## NOW IS THE TIME

KASFAA has a place for you as a volunteer for 2015-16!

Volunteers are needed for KASFAA committees for the 2015-16 year. A wide variety of committees means that there's a committee role for you, no matter your level of experience.

We are especially excited to welcome KASFAA members who have never volunteered before to take that first step and volunteer for a committee.

Please go to this link to express your interest in KASFAA committee participation:

[http://www.kasfaa.com/about\\_committees.html](http://www.kasfaa.com/about_committees.html)

# Improve website accessibility with three tips

By Paul Burke  
VP Sales, FATV

The amended Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act mandates that federal websites be accessible for disabled individuals and encourages organizations receiving federal funds to do the same.

Although 508 compliance does not automatically apply to institutions of higher education, there are a number of schools who have adopted the federal standards on their own or have been compelled to do so based on state government accessibility rules. Drawing from the recommendations by the U.S. Department of Education for schools to improve website accessibility, here are three tips to increase usability of your financial aid website content for persons with disabilities:

1. Provide alternative text for non-text item like images or graphics. Visually impaired students use text-to-speech converter programs. By offering alternative text for non-text items, you enhance the visually impaired students' understanding of how the images or graphics explain concepts on your webpages.
2. Offer alternative text for multimedia alternatives like videos and audio. By using captions or transcripts, you make the multimedia content accessible to those who are deaf or hard of hearing. The most common form used is closed captions to achieve this form of accessibility. The use of closed captions enhances reading and listening

comprehension as well as contains dialogue and audio cues for content like music or sound effects.

3. Do not rely on color alone to convey meaning. With over 7 million Americans being affected by color blindness, these people represent the largest segment of the disabled population. Webpages can be developed with a non-color-coded alternative. Also, if you still want to use color to convey meaning, consider adding underlining, bolding, or using a slightly different visual effect to help users with color deficiencies to understand.

— Reach Paul Burke, VP of Sales at FATV at 720.306.1777 or email paul "at" financialaidtv.com

## PNC Education Loan Center Achiever Scholarships<sup>SM</sup>

Getting money for college is important, and so is achieving greater financial literacy.

The PNC Education Loan Center launched the scholarship program in 2015 to further support students by giving them a chance to win \$2,000 to spend on their education expenses. We will award a total of \$24,000 annually to eligible undergraduate students.

Encourage your students to create or revisit their free Financial Literacy account available through [pnconcampus.com](http://pnconcampus.com). They can brush up on their financial knowledge, and opt-in to enter the scholarship sweepstakes. It's that simple!

Have your students get started now at [pnconcampus.com](http://pnconcampus.com)

for the achiever in you®



No purchase necessary to enter or to win. A purchase or transaction does not increase your chances of winning. Entries will be accepted at [pnc.financialliteracy101.org/scholarship](http://pnc.financialliteracy101.org/scholarship), between December 1, 2014, and May 31, 2015, to be eligible for the June 1 drawing, and between June 1 and November 30, 2015, to be eligible for the December 1 drawing. Sweepstakes is open to legal residents of the United States who are 18 years of age and older and enrolled in a Solution Loan-eligible college or university located in AL, DC, DE, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, MA, MD, MI, MO, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, SC, TN, VA, WV, or WI. Employees of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., its affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies, as well as such employee's immediate family members (or persons living in the same household), are not eligible. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. The sweepstakes is subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Six (6) \$2,000 college scholarships will be awarded twice in 2015. Odds of winning will depend on the number of eligible entries received. On or about June 1, 2015, and December 1, 2015, winners will be drawn at random from all entries submitted. Winners will be contacted by email and/or telephone. Taxes are responsibility of winner. Prizes are not transferable. No substitution of prizes permitted. See official sweepstakes rules at [pnc.financialliteracy101.org/scholarship/official\\_rules](http://pnc.financialliteracy101.org/scholarship/official_rules). Sponsored by PNC Bank, National Association. ©2015 The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. All rights reserved. PNC Bank, National Association. Member FDIC

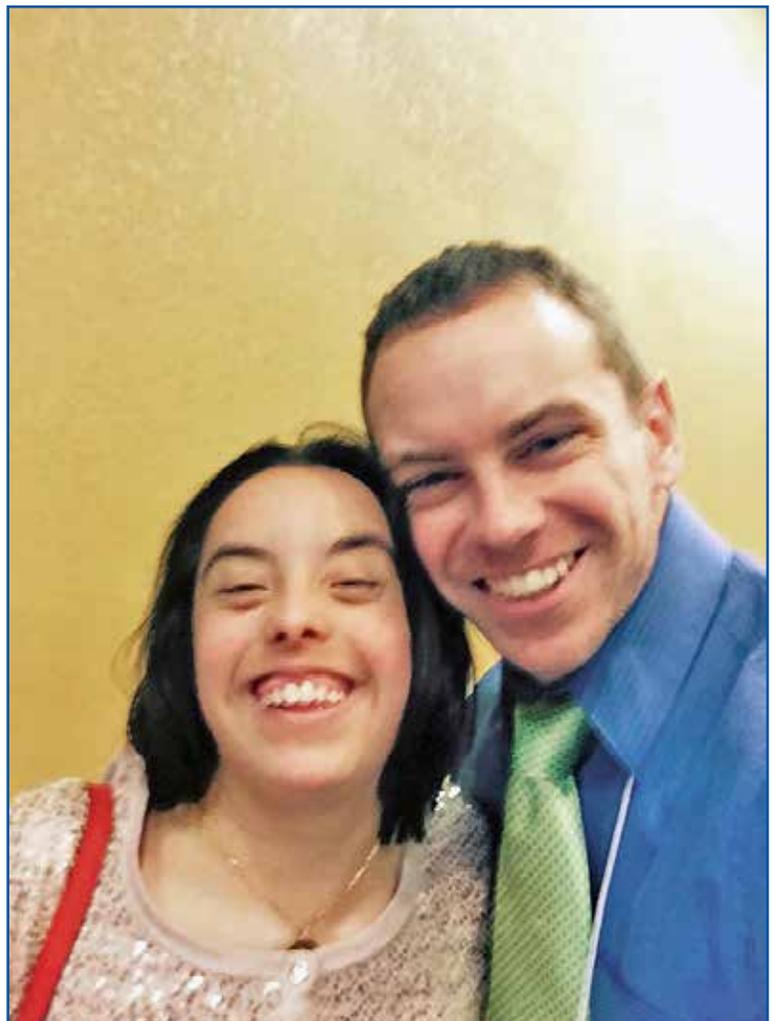
Chester Priest, right, was honored to be named the 2015 recipient of the Herb Vescio Distinguished Service Award in a moving presentation at the spring 2015 conference.



Below, Kristie Hughes, 2014-15 President ceremoniously passed the gavel to Laura Keown, 2015-16 President, at the spring 2015 KASFAA



Megan McCormick was the keynote speaker at KASFAA’s spring conference in Lexington. Megan is a student at UK, pursuing her Bachelor’s Degree, after completing her Associate’s Degree at Bluegrass Community & Technical College. Her inspiring message highlighted achievements and challenges as a person with Down syndrome pursuing higher education. Several participants had an opportunity to speak with Megan after the session, and Daniel Patterson of Somerset Community College snapped this “selfie”!



# KASFAA Board 2014-2015

## Executive Board

### President

Kristie Hughes, Western Kentucky University

### Vice President of Training

Judy Bradley, University of Pikeville

### President-Elect

Laura Keown, Centre College

### Secretary

Kate Ware, Midway College

### Treasurer

Lindsay Driskell, University of Louisville

### Past President

Runan Pendergrast, Bluegrass Community & Technical College

## Board of Directors

### Four-Year Public School Representative

Michael Abboud, University of Louisville

### Private School Representative

Dawn Graviss, Bellarmine University

### Two-Year Public School Representative

Tracy Tollefson, Elizabethtown Community & Technical College

### Proprietary School Representative

Barbara Harnish, MedTech College

### Non-school Representative

David Bailey, KHEAA/KHESLC

## Committees and Chairs

### Awards

Rhonda Bryant, University of Kentucky

### Archivist & Historian

Mayme Clayton, Transylvania University

### Articles & Bylaws

Kate Ware, Midway College

### Budget & Finance

Angie Black, University of Louisville

### College Goal Kentucky

Kim Dolan, KHEAA/KHESLC  
Jennifer Anderson, Spalding University

### Diversity

Mark Messingschlager, Thomas More College

### High School Counselor Training

Michelle Standridge, Spalding University  
Will Bradley, Gateway Community & Technical College

### Legislative Issues

Erin Klarer, KHEAA/KHESLC

### Long Range Planning

Jennifer Priest, Transylvania University

### Membership

Robin Buchholz, KHEAA/KHESLC

### Communication (Newsletter)

Jennifer Toth, KHEAA/KHESLC

### Communication (Social Media)

Roxy Lewis, University of Louisville

### Nominations

Runan Pendergrast, Bluegrass Community & Technical College

### Program, Fall

Chester Priest, KHEAA/KHESLC  
Blake Dyer, Georgetown College

### Program, Spring

Chester Priest, KHEAA/KHESLC  
Michael Birchett, Bluegrass Community & Technical College

### Public Relations / FA Awareness

Brooke Gupton, Campbellsville University

### Training, NASFAA

Daniel Patterson, Somerset Community College

### Training, Support Staff

Bob Fultz, Georgetown College

### Vendor / Sponsor

Lois Tidwell, Western Kentucky University

### Website / Technology

Jason Tretter, KHEAA/KHESLC

# KASFAA Board 2015-2016

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### Vice President of Training

Michael Birchett, Bluegrass  
Community &  
Technical College

### President Elect

Angie Black, University of  
Louisville

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Kentucky University

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Kate Ware, Midway University

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Mayme Clayton, Transylvania  
University

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Louisville

### Two-Year Public Schools

Daniel Patterson, Somerset  
Community College

### Proprietary Schools

Barbara Harnish, MedTech  
College

### Private Schools

Dawn Graviss, Bellarmine  
University

### Non-School

David Bailey, KHEAA/KHESLC

## Tired of paying monthly fees for your default prevention program and seeing few results?

If you are paying a monthly fee regardless of the number of resolved delinquencies, you might want to consider a new partner. At Inceptia, we believe it is only fair to charge you after we resolve delinquencies.

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