



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2016

Volume 18 Number 3

UPCOMING

EVENTS

NASFAA
Marriott Wardman Park
Washington, DC
July 10-13, 2016

KASFAA
Crown Plaza
Louisville, KY
October 12-14, 2016

*Enjoy Your
Summer!*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Keown

Hello KASFAA!

Since the last Edition of the KASFAA Newsletter, KASFAA has been busy – and so have I!

April opened with the KASFAA Support Staff Workshop held April 1, 2016 at Bluegrass Community & Technical College, Leestown Campus and I appreciated the opportunity to meet and greet the attendees and spend the morning with them. Runan Pendergrast and her Support Staff Workshop Committee did an excellent job putting together a day of

interesting and relevant topics as well as some fun opportunities to network. Thank you to the four special presenters: Sandy Neel, Dave Bowman, Todd Gray, and Michael Birchett! And thanks as well to Cathy Hart for hosting the event for our 26 attendees. This is a great annual benefit to the support staff at our institutions and I am proud that KASFAA continues to support this opportunity.

Later in April, the fourth Board Meeting of the 2015-16 KASFAA year was held just prior to the Spring Conference. During the Board Meeting, the new Long-Range Plan was approved to be presented to the membership for vote and the amendments to the By-Laws were also approved to be voted on by the membership at large.

“Piecing the Puzzle Together,” our Spring Conference was held in Lexington April 13-15, 2016 – and what a great conference it was! Six different NASFAA Core Sessions were offered, we hosted SASFAA President Amy Berrier and NASFAA Chair Dan Mann, as well as Federal Trainer David Bartnicki, we welcomed seven Vendor/Exhibitors who helped us literally piece a puzzle together, we welcomed new KASFAA members at the pre-conference New Members Workshop, we learned ways to serve our students and institutions while keeping ourselves within regulations, and we even received advice on handling an active shooter situation! I am so proud of our 154 conference attendees for their support of our charity – The Autism Society of the Bluegrass. We raised over \$1,000 for this special organization during Autism Awareness Month – a cause that is near and dear to the hearts of many of us.

— Continued on next page

I thoroughly enjoyed the entire conference, but I'd like to share a few of my favorite highlights. I so enjoyed having the opportunity to recognize KHEAA's 50th Birthday during the conference by leading all at the luncheon in singing Happy Birthday and reading the entire Proclamation from the Governor recognizing KHEAA's 50 years of service to the Commonwealth and to its students. I was thrilled to be able to present Honorary KASFAA Lifetime Membership in person during the conference to Mary Givhan, Nancy Melton, and Betty Parke – what great examples of leadership and dedication to KASFAA those three represent! And I was truly honored to be the KASFAA President to present the Herb Vescio Distinguished Service Award to Runan Pendergrast. Runan has served KASFAA in so many different roles and ways, she is always willing to lead sessions or workshops, and her leadership to KASFAA has gone above and beyond in too many ways to list here. And that smile! I know that many of us have been encouraged and uplifted by Runan's beautiful smile. Congratulations, Runan!

Congratulations to Judy Bradley and Chester Priest, Co-Chairs of the Spring Program Committee, and all their committee for an excellent conference! All these dedicated folks, as well as all the presenters, moderators, Executive Board and Committee chairs, the staff of the Clarion Hotel, and all the attendees richly deserve my thanks for making "Piecing the Puzzle Together" a true success.

During the Spring Conference, two items were presented at the Business Meeting in preparation for a Special Election held May 16-31. The new KASFAA Long-Range Plan and Amendments to the By-Laws needed to be approved in an election by the membership of KASFAA. Thank you to all who voted in that special on-line election! I am happy to say that both items passed and were approved by majority vote. Thank you to the Long-Range Planning committee, chaired by Jennifer Priest, for their two years of work crafting this plan which will continue to move KASFAA forward in exciting ways! Thank you as well to the Articles and By-Laws committee, chaired by Kate Ware, and the Executive Board for making needed changes to the By-Laws which will allow KASFAA to be able to respond to new opportunities in a creative and nimble manner!

On June 23, 2016, I will lead the final KASFAA Board Meeting of the 2015-16 KASFAA year. In a way, this

seems unbelievable to me – didn't my term as KASFAA President just start? And yet, in other ways I sometimes feel that I've been KASFAA President for a very long time. We have accomplished so much this year as an association and I have been truly honored to be a part of it all. I am very excited to see all the great ways Angie Black, our 2016-17 KASFAA President, will lead us as we celebrate KASFAA's 50th Anniversary as an association. What a great year it will be!

Yet, I am also going to miss being your President when Angie takes over on July 1st. I will very much miss your 2015-16 Executive Board and Committee Chairs – they have been so dedicated, hard-working, creative, and supportive throughout this year - and for that they have my everlasting gratitude and affection. And finally, I will miss the special connection the President has with membership. I have truly enjoyed answering your questions, connecting you with committee chairs and other members who can help you, representing you on the SASFAA Board, and hearing from you regularly about your concerns, suggestions and compliments. Thank you for electing me to serve as KASFAA President this year, your faith in me still humbles me.

— Laura Keown

FROM EDITOR Meredith Geraci

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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The KASFAA Newsletter is published three times a year.
Graphic and web design provided by KHEAA and KHESLC.

Welcome New Members



New members attend the New Member Luncheon during the Spring KASFAA Conference in Lexington.

Janet Balok, Murray State University
Harold Barger, University of Louisville
Rebekah Bertram, Centre College
Melissa Brown, Sullivan University
Glenn Chance, College Ave Student Loans
Brittany Christy, KHEAA/KHESLC
Reed Clarke, CampusLogic
Katherine Clements, Postlethwaite and Netterville
Haylee Combs, University of Pikeville
Catherine Crabtree, Summit Salon Academy
Kimberly Crady, St. Catharine College
Megan Crane, Dean Dorton
Matthew Darbro, Sullivan University
Amy D'Arecca, Discovery Student Loans
Shana Davis, Hopkinsville Community College
Yolanda Davis, Brown Mackie College
Rebecca Dunkley, University of Louisville
Gina Farcas, Asbury Theological Seminary
Crissy Fiscus, Dean Dorton
Christina Flannery, Morehead State University
Derek Goode, University of Kentucky
Julie Graham, Centre College
Quina Hall, Kentucky State University
Heather Hardesty, Georgetown College

Stephany Hernandez, Berea College
Joseph Jaspersen, Georgetown College
Teresa Jones, University of Pikeville
Emily Latham, MedTech College
Kara Mason, Georgetown College
Patrick Mayer, Somerset Community College
Mark McGinnis, CampusLogic
Alisha McKinney, Morehead State University
Jason Meadows, University of Louisville
Sarah Messer, Northern Kentucky University
Raymond Norris, Sullivan University
Felecia Proctor, University of Kentucky
Debra Ramey, University of Kentucky
Keith Ritchie, KHEAA/KHESLC
Journey Roberts, Hopkinsville Community College
Jeremy Sanders, Postlethwaite and Netterville
Brent Schaumburg, Murray State University
Nancy Stephens, Brown Mackey College
Anna Stewart, Southcentral Kentucky Community and
Technical College
Endora Todd, Daymar College
Tammy Tomfohrde, Lincoln Memorial University
Caitlin White, Kentucky Christian University
Lindsey Wolf, KHEAA/KHESLC

Spotlight on new members

Heather Hardesty
Financial Planning Advisor-
Graduate Studies
Georgetown College
Length of Service: 6 months



Hardesty

I started in Financial Aid due to my own experience as a first-generation college student attempting to navigate financial aid and the mistakes I made along the way motivated me to learn more about financial literacy and help students avoid financial mistakes.

By being a member of KASFAA, I hope to continuously gain new skills and knowledge through interactions with seasoned professionals.

My husband and I attended the University of Kentucky and live in Lexington. We enjoy spending summers visiting Kentucky wineries and are approaching our first wedding anniversary.

Joseph “Joey” Jaspersen
Loan Counselor
Georgetown College
Length of Service: Less than 1 year



Jaspersen

I started my career in student financial aid as an opportunity to help people achieve their goals and fulfill their sense of purpose.

KASFAA has already helped bring me to better understand USDE regulations. With things constantly evolving in the field I hope KASFAA will continue to play a part in keeping me up to speed!

I cherish the opportunity to work in a place that values promoting Christian discernment. Whether helping students with FAFSAs or giving guests directions around campus, I love every chance I have to help GC provide a vibrant Christian community for students to work, live and learn.

Crissy R. Fiscus
Director of Assurance Services
Dean Dorton, one of Kentucky’s
largest public accounting firms
with a focus in higher education
Length of service: 21 years



Fiscus

I lead the higher education practice for Dean Dorton, performing audit and consulting services for institutions of higher education. Financial aid is definitely a focus of my work in higher education, even though I am not employed at a college or university. I really enjoy financial aid auditing and consulting because I know the impact that it has on people’s lives. I was able to afford college largely due to financial aid and it changed my life.

By being a member of KASFAA, I hope to stay up to date on regulation changes, industry trends, etc. that would impact my clients. My goal is to always go beyond the audit to provide value to my clients by offering innovative solutions. By being a member of KASFAA I hope to learn what is valued by those working in financial aid so that we can continue to provide the best service possible.

I am married and have 2 wonderful children — a 14-year old boy and an 11-year old girl. My son plays baseball, so I spend my summers at baseball parks. My daughter is a dancer and it never stops! We are a very busy family, which leaves me little time to get to visit my hometown of Elkhorn City in Pike County — I deeply miss the mountains and wish I could spend more time there.

Brittini Wise
Financial Aid Advisor
University of Louisville
Length of Service: 1 year

When I began working in financial aid as a Graduate Peer Counselor, I had no idea I would be drawn to this particular area in higher education. I knew I wanted to help at-risk populations of students, specifically first-generation, earn a college degree but I was unclear of which avenue I should take to do so. It wasn't until I left my job as a GPC in financial aid when I realized the one real way to help students earn a degree is to find ways to remove their financial barriers. I re-entered the field in January and have felt "at home" ever since.

By being a member of KASFAA I hope to continue to network with other financial aid professionals in the state. Federal and state policies are constantly changing and it is important to have a network of people to help navigate the ever changing world of financial aid together.

I am currently finishing my Masters degree in College Student Personnel at the University of Louisville. Upon completion of my degree, I plan to continue my education by pursuing a Ph.D. in higher education or a related field. My friends and colleagues would say I am a lifelong student and if I could make going to school a career, I would. When I'm not working or in class, I enjoy exercising, spending time with my Dachshund, Daisy, and catching up on the latest TV shows.



Wise

Nancy Stephens
Student Financial Aid Advisor
Brown Mackie College-Hopkinsville
Length of Service: 6 months

Initially, I had interests in pursuing my career in education, however, I was given the opportunity to work in Financial Aid which has proven to be as rewarding.

I'm hoping that by being a KASFAA member I will gain knowledge of all the financial state aid that is available to our student body. In addition, I would like to forge friendships and gain experiences that I feel I could not have done if I had pursued my career in Education.

I came to the Hopkinsville/Clarksville area thanks to my husband who is actively serving in our armed forces and is stationed at Fort Campbell. We are originally from NYC and have a beautiful charismatic 12-month old. We love to stay active, enjoy watching sports and do as much travelling as we can. One of our favorite pass times is to spend time together as a family as much as we can. Something unique about me is, my very first job after graduating college was working at a model/talent agency in New York City as an accounts coordinator.



Stephens

Amy D'Arecca
Relationship Manager
Discover Student Loans
Length of Service: 15 years

I applied for a job in the college library, but ended up in the Financial Aid office! After several years, I moved to the lender side. Assisting students and families in funding education is important and satisfying work,



D'Arecca

so I think it worked out for the best.

Attending the conferences are a great opportunity to meet with school representatives and learn about how I can better assist them.

An interesting fact about myself is I'm a "foodie," so I'm always looking for new places to eat. Please send me your favorite places!

Pendergrast awarded Herb Vescio honor

You don't have to be a member of KASFAA more than a day to hear the name, Runan Pendergrast. If you are not fortunate enough to work with her, then your first conference you will have the ability to meet her in person. You won't be disappointed. Her warmth, compassion and love for the financial aid community shines brightly.

Runan has never backed away from a challenge or a plea for help. Her natural leadership abilities have benefited her colleagues, institutions and KASFAA more than we can ever repay her.

Those who are fortunate to call Runan friend have a loyal friend for life, those who work with her have a valued colleague and mentor, and those who have recently met her, have aspirations to be like her.

Runan made this statement about her most recent achievement:

"Thank You KASFAA! I am truly honored to be this year's recipient of the Herb Vescio Distinguished Service Award. Being recognized for doing what I love confirms what I have felt in my heart for 29 years, I am where I am supposed to be. Financial Aid, you either love it or hate it. I am very proud to say I love it. Lots of love to all my KASFAA Family. Thanks again, Runan."



Pendergrast with KASFAA President Laura Keown

We could not be more proud of our most recent Herb Vescio Distinguished Service Award recipient!

Runan has served KASFAA in several prominent roles as well as SASFAA and NASFAA. Below is a highlight of her leadership in the industry.

Career Highlights:

September 1987

Started working in the Financial Aid Office at U of L as a FWS Student Worker

August 1990

Started working full-time in the Financial Aid Office at U of L

January 1997

EKU as a Financial Aid Counselor

July 1999

Assistant Director of Financial Aid at then Lexington Community College, now Bluegrass Community & Technical College BCTC for 17 years all in Financial Aid, currently the Associate Dean of Financial Aid

KASFAA Service

Membership Committee (member, develop curriculum for New Members Workshop)

Diversity Committee (member and chair)

Program Committee (chair, member)

Support Staff Committee (chair)

Vice-President

President (created the New Aid Officers Scholarship)

Conference and Workshop Presenter

SASFAA Service

Vice-President

Diversity Concerns Chair

New Aid Officers Workshop Curriculum Coordinator and Instructor

Conference Presenter

NASFAA Service

Diversity Luncheon Panelist

NASFAA Ethics Commission

10 Spring Stress Busters for Financial Aid Professionals

by Dave Bowman, Regional Director
Great Lakes Educational Loan Services, Inc.

Remember the instructions on a plane for what to do if the oxygen masks are released from above the cabin? It's a good idea to apply those to life in the financial aid office over the next month or two, as well. Read through our simple stress-busting tips, and see how you can work them into your day. Taking care of you will benefit you—and your students, too.

- 1.** Get enough rest. During times of additional stress, your body needs the critical recovery period offered by a good night's sleep. Unfortunately, those are times when insomnia can be most problematic. Give yourself a break from all electronics—yes, all of them—for at least the last hour before your targeted sleep time. Instead, keep a mildly boring book (not your Kindle) next to your bed to help your eyes and your mind wind down. Trouble staying asleep? Make sure you keep a notepad and pen next to your bed in case you wake up, worrying about something you need to do tomorrow. Jot it down, and visualize the piece of paper floating into your office and landing on your desk. (Don't forget to take the note with you to work in the morning, since it will probably still be there.)
- 2.** Take control. When we feel like situations are out of our control, damage-causing stress hormones are activated over time. If a situation or person is stressing you out, identify the parts of the situation you can control—and try to remove the emotional triggers caused by someone else. You'll be more productive in finding solutions, and leave the office in a better frame of mind, too, if your problem-solving centers about owning your actions.
- 3.** Use a to-do list. Having a realistic list helps you ensure critical tasks aren't forgotten, and allows your overtaxed brain to choose something—anything—to tackle first when it feels overwhelmed. If you're a visual person, plot your day's tasks on a Covey time management matrix using sticky notes on a white board to ensure you're getting necessary tasks done first. At day's end, update your matrix for tomorrow so your path is clear when you come in. Prefer electronic task management? Consider using a free app such as Wunderlist, which allows you to break down your task list by category, and then by day and week. It's satisfying to check things off as you complete them, and it lets you see how much you actually accomplish.
- 4.** Change your scenery. If you're feeling burned out, frustrated, or productivity is flagging, a change of scenery could do you good. Even a five- or ten-minute walk outside in that fresh spring air can allow your tense muscles to relax, your breathing to slow, and your perspective to shift.
- 5.** Drink water. Eat food. How many times have you left the office, only to realize that you haven't even used the restroom all day? And you usually have a splitting headache, too? Make sure you stay hydrated for productive functioning, and take at least a few minutes for lunch. It's a great idea to have a supply of energy-sustaining quick snacks at your office so that you can easily grab something between meetings or tasks.
- 6.** Remember the reward. Problem-solving is a major part of your job as a financial aid professional, so it's easy to see why your brain may be trained on the negative after a while. The student you're helping now will be happy to leave with a solution. Remember that happiness and let that motivate you as the next student walks in with an issue that needs your attention. You're helping students because it's rewarding. Don't let the reward walk out of your office without taking note of it!

7. Make friends with the optimists. Every office has its complainers—and when you most feel like joining them, it's a good time to step away. Instead, seek out colleagues with a sunny outlook so that you can keep your positive, problem-solving mindset. When your day heads south, these people will help you find the energy to keep going and are more likely to help you find solutions than the complainers.
8. Breathe. (Seriously.) Even if it's shallow—coming from between tense shoulders or a scrunched up diaphragm—as you pore over paperwork, you have to breathe. While you've been frantically checking things off your list, you've managed to continue doing it so far today. But if you stop and force yourself to take just 10 or 20 deep breaths, tension leaves your body and more oxygen flows to your brain. (If you can meditate, even better.)
9. Help your students help themselves. Do students come to you with the same question over and over again? Record a walk-through training of your online counseling tool, for example, or provide a quick tutorial at orientation, and then use your office's social media channels to let students know how it may be accessed to save you—and them—time.
10. Power down. Leave yourself 20 minutes at the end of your day. Take 10 minutes to set your priorities for tomorrow in whatever format you prefer, and then another 10 to clear away clutter from today—whether papers on your desk or old emails. You'll benefit from coming in to a clean desk with a ready-to-go plan tomorrow, and be reminded of what you accomplished today as you walk out the door.

— Dave Bowman is a Regional Director with Great Lakes, serving schools in Kentucky, Tennessee and Southern Ohio. You can reach Dave at (888) 685-1604, or by email at dbowman@glhec.org. More info at schools.mygreatlakes.org.

PNC Education Loan Center Achiever ScholarshipsSM

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. 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



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 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, MN, 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. Sponsored by PNC Bank, National Association.

Big ideas for student retention

By Angela Henry
USA Funds

Student retention has become more of a hot-button issue in the last few years, and rightly so. A recent New York Times article noted that “sixty percent of people go to college these days, but . . . more than a quarter of those who start college drop out with no credential.” Helping students finish their programs of study is an important part of setting them on the right track to achieve their long-term goals, and it can even increase the likelihood that they will repay their education loans.

Complete College America, a nonprofit organization focused on increasing the number of Americans that attain post-secondary degrees and certifications, offers ideas that it refers to as “Game Changers.” Here are a few of these ideas for you to consider incorporating into your school’s retention plans:

- **15 to finish.** This campaign is centered around making students aware of the benefits of taking 15 credit hours per semester to stay on track for a four-year graduation.
- **Structured pathways (also known as GPS Guided Pathways to Success).** The idea here is that when students select a program of study, they receive a pathway to complete that program, including which courses to take and when they should take those courses to finish on time.
- **Co-requisite support.** This recommendation involves putting students directly into college courses and providing co-requisite support to those students that need additional support. This may include things like additional lab or classroom time, academic support or peer mentoring.
- **Block scheduling.** We know that a lot of students have other commitments: life, family, work, etc. Block scheduling makes it possible for a student to take his or her courses together, making it easier to plan for life around classes.

Ruffalo Noel Levitz, a consulting firm focused on higher education enrollment management, student success and fundraising, also provides some recommendations for ways to help with student retention:

- **“Intrusive” advising.** Ruffalo Noel Levitz recommends that we need to get away from the notion that advising is simply course selection for a semester and make it about educational planning for the entire program; planning with the end in mind.
- **Financial literacy.** We need to provide ongoing financial counseling and education for students and their families. Think beyond your financial aid recipients to include appropriate interventions for all students and their families throughout the student lifecycle.
- **Study the data.** Each institution is unique and each incoming class is a bit different. That’s why Ruffalo Noel Levitz suggests identifying “specific needs for specific subsets of students” to target the appropriate intervention.

The most important step is to make sure you have some sort of actionable student retention plan that involves many different departments and takes your unique institution’s needs into consideration. Your school’s plan should also be measurable, so you can analyze what is working and make changes as appropriate.





Summer 2016 Update

Budget constraints put focus on higher education

To address the state's vast unfunded pension liabilities, the 2016 regular session of the General Assembly included many challenging budget constraints. The cost of higher education, financial aid and state support of colleges and universities became major focal points during the session.

HB 303 (Rep. Rick Rand), the budget bill, included increases for the College Access Program Grant and the Kentucky Tuition Grant, as well as the Coal County College Completion Scholarship.

One of the few legislative proposals that affects financial aid that made it all the way through to the end is HB 158 (Rep. Ruth Ann Palumbo). This bill increased the amount of Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarships available to students enrolled in comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs.

HB 626 (Rep. Greg Stumbo) became a vehicle for several higher education matters, including dual credit and work-ready scholarship program language. The Governor vetoed the bill and part of the corresponding appropriation, with the hope that more time would allow for better programs to be crafted to meet the needs of Kentucky students and their families. A lawsuit has been filed questioning the validity of those vetoes because of procedural handling, but the suit probably will not be resolved for several months.

Agencies enhance services to schools

KHEAA and KHESLC continue to enhance their Cohort Default Management Services, KHEAA Verify and Advantage Education Loans.

KHEAA is participating in the Default Prevention Task Force to work with Federal Student Aid to advocate options for appeals and challenges and with Congress to explore legislative solutions.

The agency submitted incorrect data challenges by April 22 on behalf of the colleges and universities with which it works on default management.

Enhancements made to KHEAA Verify include:

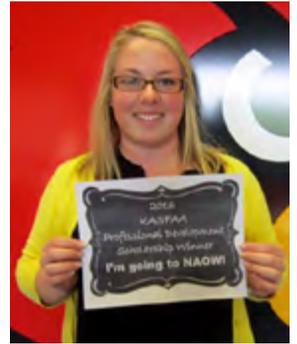
- Improved skill logic to eliminate worksheet errors.
- Expanded e-sign forms that can be completed online.
- Secure uploading of documents from smart phones.
- Shorter review times through electronic review of certain cohorts.
- Emails that provide links to school-specific pages that link directly to the verification process.

KHESLC removed all origination fees from its Advantage Education Loans this spring, saving students and parents additional money.

Wise wins KASFAA scholarship to workshop

Brittini Wise from the University of Louisville won the KASFAA Professional Development Scholarship to attend the SASFAA New Aid Officers Workshop being held at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, AL. Brittini started working in the Financial Aid office as a full-time employee in January. Prior to that, she was a Graduate Assistant. She is very excited about the opportunity to attend the NAOW and plans to make Financial Aid her career!

Congratulations, Brittini!



KASFAA participates in annual SASFAA hill visits

SASFAA held its annual Washington DC Hill Visits in April to advocate on behalf of financial aid administrators and to discuss Higher Education Reauthorization. A total of 19 SASFAA members participated in the visits, including KASFAA members Erin Klarer from KHEAA and Mark Messingschlager from Thomas More College. They met with staffers from eight offices during the two-day event, including Senator Alexander (HELP Committee Chairman), Senator Murray (HELP Committee Ranking Member), Congressman Kline (Committee on Education and the Workforce Chairman), Kentucky Senators McConnell and Paul, and Kentucky Congressmen Rogers, Guthrie, and Massie. There was a wide range of topics on the table including financial literacy, student loan repayment simplification and rehabilitation, FAFSA updates, and overburdening regulations. Most staffers were very receptive to the discussions and asked meaningful questions .



Mark Messingschlager and Erin Klarer conducting Hill visits.

Give your students the Advantage

The **Advantage Education Loan** and **Advantage Parent Loans** are designed to provide additional money for students and families. The loans offer low **FIXED** interest rates ranging from 4.95% to 7.59%. The rates are fixed for the life of the loan, with **NO** fees, which can save borrowers thousands of dollars.

The **Advantage Refinance Loan** is a great choice for borrowers with undergraduate, graduate or professional level degrees. The Advantage Refinance Loan offers **FIXED** interest rates starting as low as 3.99%, with **NO** fees!

Send your students to advantageeducationloan.com or have them call 800.988.6333 for more information.



7 Ideas to Boost Your SAP Communication Strategy

Kathleen Roebuck

Vice President of School Partnerships

FATV

Want to beef up your Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) communication strategy for students? Consider one or more of these tips for students on Financial Aid Warning or Financial Aid Probation:

1. Send notification via more than one method (i.e., email, snail mail, and notifications in your student information system) to notify students on Financial Aid Warning or who are disqualified for financial aid because they failed to meet SAP. This emphasizes that the school wants the student to understand this important information.
2. During the first 2 weeks of the enrollment period, remind them of the student success services on campus. Highlight tutoring, learning communities, disability resources, library hours, and more.
3. Monitor if these students drop classes and re-direct them to academic counseling. Intervention is key. You want to ensure that they don't falter again, so point them in the direction of someone who may be able to help them keep the course load they need to maintain SAP.
4. Consider adding a Financial Literacy Component to a SAP Academic Plan. You have an excellent opportunity to provide students with a series of recommendations and pertinent information by personalizing academic plans for students on Financial Aid Probation. Suggest completion of the Department of Education's Financial Awareness Counseling Tool on studentloans.gov, an online financial literacy workshop, or completing a GPA or budget calculator.
5. Prior to midterms, cheer them on. Congratulate them on their success thus far. Summarize student success services that can help them prepare for midterms and gently remind them of the consequences of failure. This is also a great opportunity to remind students to make an appointment with your office if they have any questions or concerns regarding their current progress towards reestablishing SAP standards.
6. Remind them they are on home stretch prior to finals. Inspire them to maintain their academic progress. Consider an inspirational message from your institution's President, a Dean, or the Director of Financial Aid. It's also another great opportunity to recap the student success services.
7. Congratulate those who make it. When you run SAP again, make certain that you "high five" those students who succeeded. Let them know that the financial aid team supports their educational goals

New Honorary Lifetime Members



Laura Keown hands gavel over to incoming President Angie Black at the KASFAA Spring Conference.



Lindsey Wolf, right, wins new member scavenger hunt prize from Robin Buchholz.



Laura Keown awards Mary Givhan a lifetime KASFAA membership.



Nancy Melton



Betty Parke

KASFAA Board 2015-2016

Executive Board

President

Laura Keown, Centre College

Vice President of Training

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