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President’s Welcome

Dear OASFAA Members & Friends,



As I enter my 23rd year in college financial aid, I have so much gratitude for all of you and how you have helped in my growth... from Financial Aid Technician with a 4" binder as my training guide, to Financial Aid Director with many of you just a phone call away to troubleshoot and talk through scenarios. As financial aid professionals, we continue to work in an environment shaped by constant change. Campus budget pressures, evolving state funding priorities, staffing challenges, and ongoing uncertainty surrounding the implementation of OBBB-related regulations have created new complexities for institutions and students alike. While many of these rules and processes are still being finalized, the impact of uncertainty is already being felt across our campuses and communities.

Yet even in challenging times, our work remains deeply important.

Every day, financial aid professionals help students navigate barriers that might otherwise prevent them from pursuing their educational goals. We provide guidance during uncertainty, advocate for equitable access, and serve as trusted partners for students and families making life-changing decisions. The work can be demanding, but it is also meaningful and transformative.

As President of this association, I am continually inspired by the resilience, professionalism, and compassion demonstrated by our members. Our collective expertise and willingness to support one another are among our greatest strengths. Together, we will continue to share knowledge, adapt to new requirements, and advocate for policies that best serve students and institutions.

This year, we are especially excited to expand opportunities for professional development, connection, and support within our community. We are thrilled to bring back the Summer Drive-In training event for the first time since 2019 — an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, share best practices, and learn (cont...)

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(...President's Welcome, continued from page 1...)

together in person once again. In addition, we will be offering a series of training webinars to help members stay informed on emerging regulations, operational updates, and topics impacting our daily work.

We are also proud to reintroduce our Mentorship Program, which will provide opportunities for both new and experienced professionals to build relationships, exchange knowledge, and support one another's growth within the profession. Strong professional connections are more important than ever, and is crucial to sustain our collective expertise for many years to come.

Our association remains committed to fostering collaboration, professional development, and open communication. We know the road ahead may include additional changes and unanswered questions, but we also know that our community is capable, innovative, and dedicated to student success.

I encourage each of you to stay engaged, reach out to an [OASFAA leader](#), ask questions, share your experiences, and lean on one another. By working together, we can continue to navigate uncertainty with confidence and purpose.

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of students, families, and higher education. It is an honor to serve alongside you.

Frankie Everett, 2026-2027 OASFAA President

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2026 Annual OASFAA Conference



Amazing Food from the wonderful staff of Salishan



Past OASFAA President's Panel



Dinner with Friends



Breakout Sessions



Karaoke Night



Past, Present & Future
OASFAA Presidents



OASFAA Supported Food Share of
Lincoln County with non-perishable
food donations

Please join us the next year's 2027 Conference at Salishan Resort

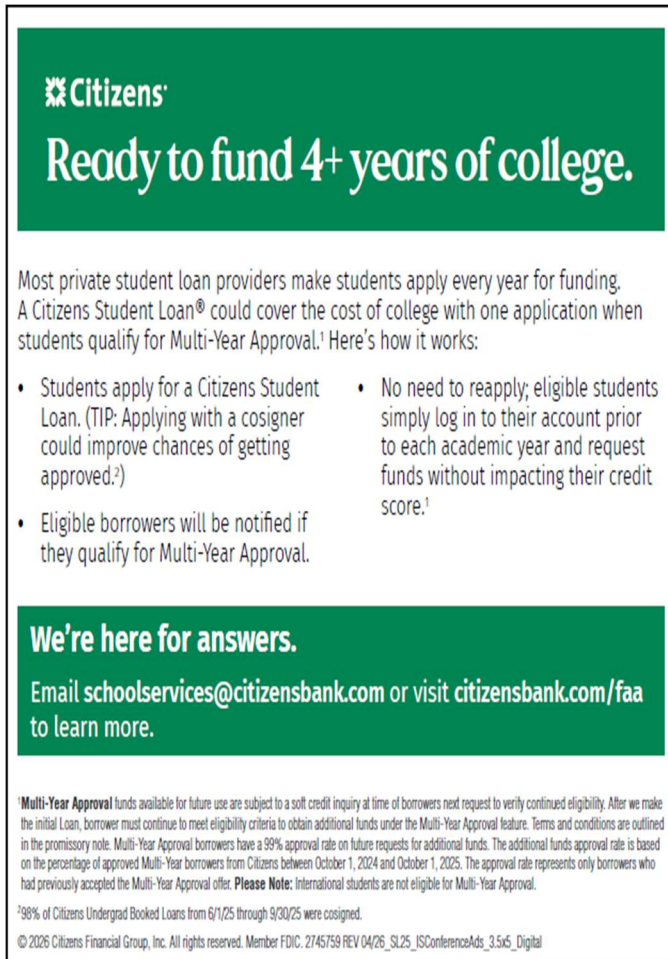
Here is what an OASFAA Scholarship Recipient shared about their Conference Experience

My first OASFAA Conference was an absolute blast. It was such a nice change of pace to step away from the office for a bit, meet new people, learn new things, and hear stories from others doing this work every day. I've only been in financial aid for about six months, so getting the chance to attend this conference came at the perfect time and gave me a much stronger foundation moving forward.

One of the things I appreciated most was the range of sessions. The topics were diverse, practical, and relevant, not just for financial aid work, but for professional growth overall. I attended sessions that covered everything from how a financial aid bill moves through the legislative process to how we can be intentional about building our own personal legacy.

What I'll remember most, though, is how welcoming everyone was. It meant a lot to connect with people who were so open about their own early experiences and willing to share advice. Those conversations reminded me that this field is full of people who truly care, both about students and about each other. I left feeling encouraged, supported, and grateful to be part of this community, and I'm already looking forward to next year's OASFAA conference.

-- David Keeton, OSU Cascades



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¹Multi-Year Approval funds available for future use are subject to a soft credit inquiry at time of borrowers next request to verify continued eligibility. After we make the initial Loan, borrower must continue to meet eligibility criteria to obtain additional funds under the Multi-Year Approval feature. Terms and conditions are outlined in the promissory note. Multi-Year Approval borrowers have a 99% approval rate on future requests for additional funds. The additional funds approval rate is based on the percentage of approved Multi-Year borrowers from Citizens between October 1, 2024 and October 1, 2025. The approval rate represents only borrowers who had previously accepted the Multi-Year Approval offer. **Please Note:** International students are not eligible for Multi-Year Approval.
²98% of Citizens Undergrad Booked Loans from 6/1/25 through 9/30/25 were cosigned.
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2026 Annual OASFAA Awards



Rookie of the Year Award - Brodie Brooks, OSU

This award is given to an OASFAA voting member who shows great potential for leadership within the financial aid community. Recipients may be someone who has been in the financial aid profession less than 3 years or someone who is new to volunteering with OASFAA.

I'm excited to nominate this person for the OASFAA Rookie of the Year Award. In just over two years in the financial aid profession, they have already made a big impact at the University and within the broader financial aid community. They regularly step up to take on leadership roles in our office, whether it's volunteering for internal committees, managing programs, or finding new ways to better serve students. One great example of this is when they took the initiative to launch and maintain an evening series of virtual advising appointments, helping students and families who couldn't meet during regular business hours get the support they need.

They are also known for their outstanding student service. They've received numerous thank-you emails from students and families who appreciated how caring, patient, and helpful they were, especially in stressful or confusing situations. They have recently taken the lead on advising students in study abroad programs, helping them understand how financial aid can support their global learning goals. Outside of our office, they volunteered with OASFAA's Community Partnership Committee and presented at a virtual FAFSA/ORSAA night in 2025, showing their commitment to outreach and education across the state. They have provided thoughtful feedback, a collaborative spirit, and a clear passion for helping others. These are qualities that make them a rising leader in our field and a perfect fit for this award.

Unsung Hero Award - Shelly Evans, Lane Community College

This award honors an OASFAA voting or affiliate member who has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to Oregon students or OASFAA by working quietly and without reward or recognition on committees, at their institution and/or in the community, above and beyond the requirements of the candidate's job.



She started as a work study student and stayed in the field for over 30 years, working every day for students and staff. She cares deeply for students who need financial aid and has supported all of the staff. She is the "go to" person for every department on our campus who has questions about financial, processes, budget, history, etc.

She comes to work every day with a smile and will drop anything to help someone who calls, emails or just shows up! She is very patient and she checks and double checks all details before sending communication from the Financial Aid Office.

She doesn't want to run for an office but if you email her, she will absolutely share everything she knows to help you! I am so lucky to have worked in the same office as her.

Friend of OASFAA Award - Raymond Yee, Sallie Mae

This award honors an individual who has provided exceptional service and support to OASFAA, the financial aid community, and students over an extended period of time. This award is generally given to a non-member or to an affiliate member of OASFAA.



I'm happy to nominate this Friend of OASFAA as they have been a long-time supporter of students, families, and financial aid professionals, and their dedication to helping students and their families understand how to pay for college spans more than 20 years. Over the years, they have been a consistent presence in our OASFAA community—showing up, sharing their knowledge, and doing everything they can to make college more accessible. They've presented at countless events, always bringing helpful information, real-world tools, and a genuine desire to help students make smart choices about their education and finances. Whether they are talking to families at a high school night, college fair, or sharing resources with financial aid professionals, they make complicated topics easier to understand.

One of the things that makes them stand out is how much they truly care. They don't just deliver presentations—they build relationships. They are approachable, supportive, and always willing to collaborate. Their work has had a real impact on our students, our institutions, and the broader community. Many of us have leaned on their expertise over the years, and has never hesitated to jump in and help.

They have been a true friend to OASFAA and to the financial aid profession, in general. He's someone we can count on, and his contributions have made a lasting difference.

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Distinguished Service Award - Anastacia Dillon, Lewis & Clark College

This award honors an individual who has made significant contributions to OASFAA and to the financial aid profession over a period of time, or has made an outstanding one-time contribution to OASFAA and/or the financial aid profession. This award is generally given to an active member of OASFAA.

For the past 21 years, I have had the privilege of working with this member and have been consistently impressed by their exceptional contributions and unwavering dedication to students and families, OASFAA, and the financial aid profession. I am confident that their achievements and character make them an outstanding candidate for this honor.

They can often be found at high school financial aid nights and other events such as The College Place Oregon's "Paying for College" sessions. This exemplifies their ability to go above and beyond regular responsibilities, creating a lasting positive impact on our entire community. In addition to their outstanding professional accomplishments, they are a true role model. Their positive attitude, quiet leadership, and mentorship work with OASFAA and WASFAA has earned the respect of her peers and has fostered a more collaborative and supportive environment for everyone.

In closing, their exceptional dedication and impactful contributions make them highly deserving of the Distinguished Service Award. Their work exemplifies the values that this award represents, and their continued efforts will undoubtedly bring further value to OASFAA.

A promotional graphic for Monogram Personalized Student Loans. The background is black. At the top left, the word 'monogram' is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font with dots between the letters. Below it, 'Personalized Student Loans' is written in a smaller white font. The central focus is a large, colorful graphic of a guitar neck and headstock, with the body of the guitar forming a hand making the 'rock on' (devil horns) gesture. The words 'ROCK ON!!!' are written in large, bold, colorful letters across the guitar body. To the right, the words 'Financial Aid Rock Star' are written in a white, cursive font. At the bottom, there are four logos: 'Abe.' in white, the 'CUSTOM CHOICE' logo (a circular icon with a gear-like pattern), the 'Union Federal' logo (a stylized 'U' and 'F' icon), and the 'AAA Student Loans' logo (the AAA logo with 'Student Loans' written below it). At the very bottom, white text reads: 'For more information, contact Holly Johnson: HJohnson@monogramllc.com or visit monogramllc.com'.

Lifetime Member Award - Juan Báez-Arévalo, HECC

Accepted on his behalf by: Kyra Mathews, HECC

Lifetime Membership is awarded to a person who has made major and significant contributions to the profession over an extended period of time. Lifetime Membership is the highest award OASFAA can make and is only awarded in exceptional cases. The award is usually given at the time the recipient retires or otherwise leaves the profession.



During their time, they have worked steadily to listen to folks from all sectors, to serve students in every level. On several occasions, I'd receive a text message or phone call to discuss various scenarios and how it would affect my students in rural Oregon. When the "new" 24/25 FAFSA rolled out, we would spend a few hours on the phone discussing the nuances that affected individual students, both negatively and positively, and how they could advocate at the state level. Their service to Oregon students and colleges is greatly appreciated and will be missed.

Since his beginnings at OSAC in 2017 (prior to OSAC, he was employed by HECC in 2013), Juan Báez-Arévalo This person has been a fierce advocate for college students in Oregon. Under their leadership, Oregon created the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA) that allows undocumented students to access Oregon financial aid. Originally created to support the Oregon Promise program, under their leadership the ORSAA allowed students access to OOG, other Oregon grants and many of the OSAC scholarships.

They have been a friend and mentor to our community colleges, our four-year public universities, our private independent colleges & universities, and our for-profit schools. Their concern has been that each student can find the program that is right for them, then access the financial aid to attend and complete their program.

Their empathy for all students shines through in everything he does. A devoted father, he's taken his love for his offspring and magnified that to show love and care for all of Oregon's students.

We're proud to award Juan Báez-Arévalo the Friend of OASFAA award in recognition of his years of service to the financial aid profession and to our students

Message from Juan:

I greatly appreciate the thoughtfulness of the association, and please know and share with others at OASFAA that I will continue to advocate for greater levels of student aid. Thanks to all of you, OASFAA members and student advocates, we increased investments in student aid in Oregon in the last 8 years. New programs were created, and funding was exponentially increased for the OOG. Near-future reports to the legislature will demonstrate the collective gains we've made in reducing the affordability gap, lifting up the highest need students while progressively covering more middle-income students.

More investment is needed in Oregon student aid, so that at minimum the OOG award can fully cover 15 credit hours of tuition and fees at a community college and at a public university. That's the benchmark goal we set in a budget proposal in 2021, and it should continue to be the target (a NorthStar for Oregon Student Aid).



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OASFAA IDEA Advisory Board – May Newsletter

Hello OASFAA Colleagues!

Your Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Advisory Board wishes you an amazing April and a fantastic Mental Health Awareness month. Mental health doesn't exist in a vacuum. It is deeply influenced by our environments—where we live, work, and learn.

Some quick facts:

- More than 1 in 5 US adults experience mental illness each year
- More than 1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year
- More than 1 in 7 U.S. youth ages 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year
- 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24

Practical Tools

- Mental Health Month Action Guide: Access printable tools and online activities to help you define what a "good day" looks like for you.
- Professional Support: If you are navigating challenges, organizations like NAMI offer support groups and helplines.
- Education Resources: Explore free outreach materials from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to help raise awareness in your own circles.

How to Get Involved

- Volunteer: Offer your time to local crisis lines or help distribute resources at community events.
 - Spread the Word: Use hashtags like #MHAM and #YouAreNotAlone on social media to show your support.
 - Advocate: Join efforts to support policies that provide better access to mental health care for everyone.
-

Calendar

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| June 8, 2026 @ 10:30 AM | OASFAA Live Webinar – 2-Yr College Focus on Direct Loan Schedule of Reductions (SOR)
Registration Fee - \$35 per member
Sign up on the OASFAA Website: https://www.oasfaaonline.org/webinars |
| June 8 - 12, 2026 | WASFAA Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute
University of San Diego |
| June 29 - July 2, 2026 | NASFAA 2026 National Conference
National Harbor, MD |
| July 13 – 16, 2026 | NASFAA 2026 Virtual Summit |
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Avery Hancock-Samuels joins the team at Southern Oregon University

Portland Community College welcomed **Brittney Rosas-Lauderdale** as Financial Aid Systems Technician.

Clackamas Community College welcomes **Michell Gipson** as Financial Aid Coordinator.

May was National Mental Health Month

Please remember to take care of yourself. Take a walk, drink water and step away from your desk when you can. Make time for a hobby, to be creative and use the other side of your brain. Practice gratitude and mindfulness.

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