

2025-2026 OASFAA ELECTION

CANDIDATE – PRESIDENT-ELECT



**Elijah Herr | Director of Financial Aid & Scholarships
Oregon Health & Science University**

Bio: I have worked in higher education since 2005. I have experience in student life, academic advising, counseling, and administering multiple grants. More specifically, I have worked in Financial Aid since 2011 and have served as the financial aid director in the

community college, public four-year, and graduate-professional sectors. I specialize in financial literacy, compliance, change management, educational economics, scholarship administration, project management, as well as day-to-day operations. I am an active member in the higher education policy space at both the state and national level, and regularly engages in the development of legislative concepts and their implementation. I hold a master's degree from the London School of Economics, and bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley in political economy, and an associate's degree from Portland Community College.

Statement: Thank you for opportunity to be considered for OASFAA's president elect. I am first-generation college graduate, who personally understands the transformative nature of higher education. Earning my degrees in economics has pulled my family out of generational poverty; and, I was only able to achieve these goals with access to financial aid. Without Pell Grants and Direct Student Loans, I would not have been able to go to college.

I think what makes me a strong candidate is that I have worked in most of the educational sectors in Oregon higher education, from rural community colleges to selective graduate/professional schools. Understanding the differences and similarities between these kinds of schools helps inform my holistic understanding of higher education space. If elected, I will bring this cross-sectoral understanding to ensure OASFAA is supporting all its members.

I also believe I am strong candidate because of the challenges created by the current political environment. Understanding how government works at both the state and national level will be critical to our collective mission to serve students. As a profession, we must be able to navigate decreased budgets, support students with complex needs, and advocate for structural solutions that will benefit our OASFAA members. Thank you for your time and consideration.

CANDIDATES – SECRETARY



Ingrid Baker | Associate Director of Systems and Compliance | Pacific University

Bio/Statement: Hi, I'm Ingrid, OASFAA's Volunteer Coordinator, and the Associate Director of Systems and Compliance at Pacific University!

I've sampled a lot of different positions within the Financial Aid spectrum, from counselor to director to loan processor and systems. I've also really enjoyed the positions I've held within OASFAA's executive council over the years. OASFAA as an organization has given me a lifeline to our community across this state – a group of some of the coolest, smartest, most compassionate people I know – and I'm always so humbled by what we as a scrappy group of FA professionals can accomplish.

It's been a pleasuring serving as OASFAA's Secretary for the 2025 year. As a meticulous note-taker and organizer of all things, I am happy to be in the running for OASFAA's Secretary again in 2026.



Shauna Stevens | Assistant Director of Scholarships University of Oregon

Bio: Shauna Stevens joined the financial aid world in 2016. She currently works at the University of Oregon as an assistant director of Scholarships at the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships. Prior to arriving at UO, Shauna worked at The Ford Family Foundation in the Scholarship Office. She graduated

from Oregon State University in 2011 with her bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts with a focus in Event Planning. In her free time, she enjoys crafting, traveling, gardening and spending time with her husband and Pugs, Sophie & Luna.

Statement: I am excited to run for secretary this year. I have been involved with OASFAA since 2017, first serving as the annual conference committee co-chair for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 conferences, then was elected as the 4-year Public College VP in 2020. I have been chair of the archives committee since 2019 and am currently finishing up a two-year term as the OASFAA Treasurer. I love supporting OASFAA and appreciate all that the organization does for Financial Aid Administrators.

CANDIDATES – SEGMENTAL VP – 4-YR PUBLIC



Jennifer Birt | Assistant Director of Financial Aid | Western Oregon University

Bio: Two years ago, I boomeranged back to where my financial aid career began at my alma mater, Western Oregon University (WOU). I currently serve WOU as the Assistant Director of Financial Aid. My 30+ financial aid career includes financial aid positions at WOU, Oregon State University (OSU), Warner Pacific University

(WPU), and Linfield University, as well as the other side of financial aid, in non-profit and for-profit employment. Between OSU and WPU, I relocated to CA to work in the Training & Policy division for EdFund (federal student loan guarantee services division of the California Student Aid Commission), where I traveled extensively throughout the USA and 2 US Territories, Guam and Puerto Rico, to offer financial aid training & policy, and soft skills training to FAAs. I relocated back to Oregon to be closer to family and to continue working for EdFund in a role working with FAAs in OR and WA with regards to Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) management. When FFELP ended, I returned to the school side of financial aid. On the non-school side of the financial aid industry, I worked for a non-profit, AccessLex Institute, focusing on pre-law and law student financial literacy and loan repayment strategies; FinTech App start-up company, Finology, to support financial advisors regarding helping their clients strategize federal loan repayment; I have performed Title IV Compliance Auditing for van Rijn & Associates. Three financial aid awards I have been awarded, which I treasure, include: OASFAA Unsung Hero Award, OASFAA Distinguished Service Award, and WASFAA Training Committee of the Year Award.

Statement: With gratitude, I appreciate your consideration of me as a candidate for the VP of the Public 4-Year segment to serve our OASFAA Association for the year 2026-2027. Active participation in OASFAA has been a rich professional experience for me, which has enhanced my 30 years of service in financial aid. Whether I was working on the school side of financial aid in public and private university financial aid offices or on the other side of financial aid, connecting with other OASFAA members through the years has provided ample opportunities for professional development. Within OASFAA over my financial aid career I have served in the following roles, Secretary, VP 4-Year Private, VP 4-



Rob Keever | Financial Aid Counselor and Processor Southern Oregon University

Bio: Rob Keever is a dedicated financial aid administrator, therapist, case manager, and higher education professional with a career spanning over two decades. Originally from South New Jersey, Rob's journey has taken him across the country, living in

South Florida, Northern California, and now Southern Oregon. Rob holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy, both from Nova Southeastern University, where he developed a strong foundation in mental health and therapeutic practices, which is the lens he uses when supporting others. In addition to his work as a therapist and case manager, Rob has a longstanding career in higher education, having worked in a variety of roles including Student Affairs, Events Coordination, Professor, Case Management, Basic Needs, and Financial Aid. His diverse experience in higher education has allowed him to support students in meaningful ways, ensuring they have the resources, guidance, and care they need to thrive academically and personally.

Rob currently serves as the 4-Year Public Institution Vice President for the Oregon Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (OASFAA). In this role, Rob has actively worked to better understand and support the unique needs of Oregon's four-year public colleges and universities. His time in the position has strengthened his commitment to ensuring that financial aid administrators across the state have the resources, representation, and collaborative support necessary to serve students effectively.

Rob is also a member of the NASFAA State Advocacy Network, where he helps elevate Oregon's priorities and perspectives at the national level. His involvement has deepened his understanding of statewide policy issues and strengthened his ability to communicate the challenges facing institutions and students in Oregon's public higher-education system.

Throughout his term, Rob has expanded his connections with financial aid professionals at four-year public institutions across Oregon, engaging in conversations, listening to concerns, and fostering a network rooted in collaboration and shared purpose. These relationships continue to guide his approach to advocacy, leadership, and service. If re-elected, Rob looks forward

Year Public, President, Annual Conference Committee, Chair of Summer Drive-In, OASFAA mentor program, FA 101/201 Faculty, High School Counselor Training, and ad-hoc Executive Council committees such as Chair of the Logo Committee to identify the OASFAA logo we use today. If elected, I look forward to contributing my financial aid to the OASFAA membership.

to building on this foundation—continuing to learn from colleagues statewide, amplifying their voices, and working to ensure that OASFAA remains a strong, supportive, and effective community for all four-year public institution members.

Statement: As I seek to continue serving as the 4-Year Public Institution Vice President for OASFAA, I remain committed to understanding and addressing the unique challenges faced by both students and financial aid professionals in higher education. In every role I occupy, I strive to approach my work through a lens centered on the impact of our decisions, particularly on underrepresented populations, including people of color, first-generation students, and other historically marginalized groups. I strongly believe that the policies and practices we uphold must prioritize equity so that all students have fair access to the financial resources they need to persist and succeed.

During my two years as a financial aid professional, I have actively engaged with both state and national initiatives aimed at strengthening support for those working in our field. My involvement in the NASFAA State Advocacy Network and my current service as OASFAA's 4-Year Public Institution Vice President have deepened my understanding of the evolving landscape of student aid and the challenges our institutions face. These experiences have also helped me build meaningful connections with colleagues across Oregon's four-year public colleges and universities, connections that continue to shape my perspective and inform my advocacy.

I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from so many dedicated professionals across the state, and I remain committed to representing their needs, amplifying their voices, and ensuring that OASFAA remains a strong and collaborative community. I look forward to continuing this work, supporting our institutions, and helping advance equitable access to higher education for all Oregon students.

CANDIDATES – SEGMENTAL VP – 2-YR PUBLIC



**Antonio Castellanos | Bilingual Financial Aid Advisor
Portland Community College**

Bio: My name is Antonio Castellanos. I've been working in financial aid since 2016. I began at Western Oregon University and I'm now starting my second year at Portland Community College. I'm grateful to get to work in a field where I can help

students and families on a daily basis ease the pressure or concerns one might have while beginning the process to attend college. It's been fun building friendships with colleagues within our own office and throughout the campus to learn the other processes and experiences that a student goes through, so I can be fully prepared to help, since our line of work does not only involve financial aid questions.

Statement: I would be happy to serve as the VP-Community College Sector to learn more about the concerns that we all face and to see how I can be of service to all.



**Amanda Vargas | Director of Financial Aid & Student
Conduct Officer | Klamath Community College**

Bio: I began my journey in higher education as a part-time receptionist and am now the Director of Financial Aid at Klamath Community College, where I am committed to expanding access to higher education and empowering students through clear, compassionate financial guidance.

I am a strong supporter of community, professional development, and involvement. I am one of Oregon's NASFAA State Advocacy Members, a WASFAA and OASFAA committee member where I work closely with our fellow financial aid professionals.

Driven by a passion for public service and educational equity, I continue to champion improvements that simplify financial aid processes, reduce barriers, and strengthen student success across Oregon's two-year public institutions.

Statement: I am honored to be considered for the position of Vice President – 2-Year Public. With seven years of experience in financial aid and my current role as Director of Financial Aid at Klamath Community College, I have developed a deep understanding of both the challenges and the incredible potential within our two-year institutions, and I am committed to serving with transparency, responsiveness, and purpose.

CANDIDATES – SEGMENTAL VP – INDEPENDENT



**Aaron Geist | Director of Financial Aid Counseling
George Fox University**

Bio: Aaron Geist is the Director of Financial Aid Counseling at George Fox University. He began working in financial aid at George Fox in 2018 and has served in a leadership role within the counseling team since 2019, earning an MBA from George Fox in 2022. He enjoys working with people and systems, developing

others to use their gifting toward successful student outcomes. He enjoys a good spreadsheet and data visualization to help their team achieve its goals. Aaron also holds a CFAA certification, which he earned in part through OASFAA's collaboration with NASFAA.

Statement: I am eager to serve as OASFAA's Private School Segmental VP. My own professional development has been significantly shaped by OASFAA, through resources like the 101 course, NASFAA credential training and certification, and community engagement via the annual conference and FAFSA/Financial Aid presentations. I would consider it a privilege to advocate for and connect OASFAA with our state's private colleges. By sharing ideas, feedback, and communicating effectively, we can strengthen our community to better serve both Oregon students and the financial aid professionals in our state.



**Miranda Robertson | Assistant Director of Financial
Aid | University of Portland**

Bio/Statement: Hi, I'm Miranda, Assistant Director of Financial Aid and VA School Certifying Official at University of Portland!

I have eight years of progressive experience working in financial aid, beginning in the front office where I quickly advanced through roles as Coordinator, Counselor, Senior Financial Aid Counselor, and now

Assistant Director. In my current position, I oversee complex financial aid operations and serve as the VA School Certifying Official, ensuring compliance while advocating for student success.

I hold a Bachelor of Science from Carroll College and a Master of Science in Clinical Psychology from Montana State University. My professional journey has been shaped not only by higher education but also by service abroad; as a US Peace Corps Volunteer in Fiji, where I partnered with local communities to deliver health education and promote public health initiatives.

I believe financial aid professionals are strongest when we are connected, engaged, and intentional about creating space for collaboration. My passion lies in building high-performing teams equipped with the tools and support they need to thrive. I believe one of the most valuable actions any leader can take is nurturing a positive workplace culture where both excellence and enjoyment coexist.

I'm truly grateful to be considered for this opportunity. If selected to represent the private sector I would bring warmth, energy, and a practical resourcefulness to the role. Thank you for your consideration!

CANDIDATE – SEGMENTAL VP – PROPRIETARY



**Shelle Riehl | Sr. Financial Aid Officer
Sumner College**

Bio: Shelle has been working in Financial Aid for nearly 30 years, with more than two decades spent in director-level leadership. Her journey began as a work-study student at her alma mater in Boston, where she quickly discovered a passion for helping students navigate the complexities of higher education funding.

From there, she steadily advanced through the field—beginning as a Loan Officer as an alumni at New England Conservatory of Music, then serving as Associate Director at Wentworth Institute of Technology, and eventually stepping into Director roles at WIT, St. Martin’s University, Western Seminary, and Pioneer Pacific. While much of her career has been rooted in private higher education, since 2018 she has been firmly established in the proprietary sector. Shelle is currently serving as a Senior Financial Aid Officer at Sumner College. A role that allows her to stay deeply connected to compliance, regulatory review, and the continually evolving landscape of Title IV, while also giving her the flexibility to pursue her long-held passions for theatre and voice over. And after three decades in the field, she’s seen it all—especially the countless changes that continue to shape Financial Aid today.

Statement: It is an honor to be asked to run for Segmental VP – Proprietary. I am excited to bring my extensive background in financial aid leadership and communication to this role. I am committed to elevating awareness of the unique challenges our sector faces each day as we help students and families navigate the ever-changing maze of financial aid. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to serve in this capacity.