

OASFAA Newsletter



March 2020

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College

A publication of the Oregon Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, a not-for-profit membership organization.

President's Letter

Wow – what an interesting time to be a human! As complex as we are, it is amazing how such small organisms like a virus can cause illness and disruption. I hope that each of our members is taking good care of themselves and preparing as best as possible for a contingency of potential operations disruptions at our schools and employers. If you haven't already seen it, check out the guidance recently posted by the US Department of Education regarding interruptions of education due to the COVID-19 virus:

[Guidance for interruptions of study related to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

In some association news, a first small planning meeting for the 2021 annual conference takes place this week. It is hard to believe that planning for next year begins already after a wonderfully successful, fun and informative 2020 conference. If you have ideas that you'd like to see at the conference, feel free to contact one of the conference co-chairs, Debbie O'Dea, Cassie Copeland or Joanne Leijon. The experience is richer when lots of us participate.

We're taking some steps to try to limit the number of spoofing and spamming emails that you may get purportedly from me or other OASFAA officers. These emails often ask for gift cards or if you're "available right now" because I can't get a hold of you. Be sure to mark these messages as spam (although I do love gift cards). If you look carefully at the email address, you'll see that although they may be similar (or very different) from my actual email address, it can help you see that it isn't a real message. Our plan is to remove some contact information from the public parts of the website which should stop the messages. The full membership directory will continue to be available to current members so there are easy ways to log-in and find contact information.

If you would like to get involved in OASFAA but aren't sure exactly how to do so, please feel free to contact me at ryan.west@chemeketa.edu and we'll see how to get you plugged in. Our association is strong because of our dedicated volunteers and it takes a lot of folks to put on successful events.

Ryan West
OASFAA President



OASFAA wishes all the best to our esteemed colleagues at Concordia. May the term "it depends" continue to live on in all of your futures.

Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily of OASFAA, its members, or the institutions represented by the authors. OASFAA welcomes all views and invites submissions of articles, essays, photographs, or information of general interest to all members. Submissions should be brief and may be edited. It may not be possible to publish all articles submitted. Email items for publication to the Editors.

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Take Steps to Protect Yourself

Tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Wash your hands and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and then throw away the tissue.



Avoid close contact with people, even if they are not sick



Wear a facemask if you are sick and will be in a room with other people.



Stay at home if you are sick, except to get medical care.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.

Meet your 2020-2021 Executive Council and Committee Chairs

President: Ryan West

President Elect: Kim Lamborn

Past President: Brian Hultgren

Treasurer: Heather Hall Lewis

Secretary: Lois DeGhetto

Public 2-Year VP: Frankie Everett

Public 4-Year VP: Shauna Harper

Independent VP: Cassie Copeland

Proprietary VP: Mary Yonker

Annual Conference: Debbie O'Dea,
Cassie Copeland, Joanne Leijon

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Rylan Wall & Hallie Price

Fund Development: Suzie Peterson

FA 101/201: Karen Ash & Sandy
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HS Counselor Training: Jennifer
Satalino & Breanna Sylwester

Legislative: Eli Her r

Site Selection: Brian Hultgren

Technology: Russell Seidelman

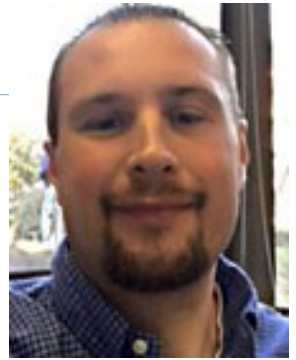
Volunteer Coordinator: Jess Kelly

A Letter From Our Past President

Brian Hultgren, Oregon State University

Hello OASFAA Members!

What another outstanding Annual Conference at the always beautiful Salishan Resort, it truly was OASFAA in Paradise. It was such a pleasure meeting so many of you throughout the conference and for those I haven't met, I look forward to connecting with you throughout the year. Special thanks to all of the conference committee members and our three outstanding co-chairs Shauna Harper, Jess Kelly and Carlos Villarroel. So much goes into planning an event like this, and we are very grateful to all our volunteers.



I am so very honored and excited to represent OASFAA this year as President and to serve alongside the rest of the Executive Council for 2019-2020. Coming from Colorado four years ago, OASFAA has truly welcomed me with open arms. It is great to see so many passionate financial aid administrators working together for each other and for the students we serve. The commitment we have from our volunteers to provide trainings, professional development, mentoring, and collaboration throughout the State of Oregon is extremely special. I hope to keep this strong tradition going for 2019-2020 with the help of so many of you.

If you are new to financial aid, new to OASFAA, or work closely with a financial aid professional and are interested in volunteering, we have a job for you! Our OASFAA committees do so many great things throughout the year including; leadership development, training events, networking, newsletters, high school nights, legislative updates, etc. None of this would be possible without volunteers. There are so many opportunities for all kinds of skill levels, interests, and time commitments. If you are interested in getting involved, please fill out our [volunteer preferences form](#).

I wish everyone a great 2019-2020 year and happy springtime!

Save the Dates!

Here are some upcoming conferences that you might be interested in attending.

**Mark Your Calendar Now for the 2021 OASFAA
Annual Conference!
February 3-5, 2021**



OASFAA Wrap Up

Jess Kelly, Reed College

OASFAA's 52nd Annual Conference was packed full of professional development and connecting with colleagues. The conference - themed this year as "Won't You Be Our Neighbor" in the style of Mr. Roger's Neighborhood - brought 35 newcomers along with plenty of familiar faces and was hosted by the Salishan resort on the Oregon Coast.



With over 25 sessions to choose from, the breakout topics ran the gamut. Some options included Effective Legislative Communication, Degree Partnership Data Sharing Practices and Diversity vs. Inclusion: The Who and the How, and "How to Say It" - which looked at communicating tough and confusing topics clearly. Attendees also had the option of attending NASFAA U training for Needs Analysis and can earn a credential from NASFAA once they have successfully completed the corresponding exam. Special thanks to Ryan West for agreeing to take on teaching three sessions back-to-back-to-lunch-to-back so our attendees would have that opportunity! Federal Trainer Virginia Hagins joined us from the Department of Education office down in San Diego to present on Resolving C-Flags, Cash Management, Verification 2020-2021, and the Federal Update. Also from California, we welcomed Scott Cline, current WASFAA President, who provided an update on WASFAA as well as presented a handful of breakout sessions. Our keynote speaker, Sonia Worcel, joined us from the Oregon Community Foundation to expand our understanding of how together our work can close the achievement gap for students coming from historically marginalized and underserved backgrounds. Thanks to all our presenters, near and far! Your time and energy for this event is so valuable to our state's development in the field.

On Wednesday night, many gathered in the Long House for the President's Reception and later in OASFAA President Brian Hultgren's suite to catch up with old friends and build new connections. Thursday night brought our "Neighborhood Watch" dinner, where we dined on barbeque and were wowed by the incredible talent of the OASFAA "Still Not Ready for NASFAA Players" once again. This year's skit - "Mr. Rogers Learns about Financial Aid for College" was once again written and directed by Mike Johnson, who was also featured as the eponymous Mr. Rogers. Special thanks to Mike again for going above and beyond with the skit! After the awards ceremony, all were invited up to the Attic Lounge & Gallery Room for a night of karaoke, casino games, and conversation!

This year we worked with Family Promise of Lincoln County to support the local community surrounding the Salishan Resort. Family Promise's goal is to alleviate homelessness for families and children in Lincoln County by "partnering and mobilizing the community and congregations to provide a warm safe place to sleep, meals and all immediate needs while families work on barriers to acquire sustainable housing." Executive Director Elizabeth Reyes joined us to graciously share about the work the organization has been doing, and we are so thankful for her words and time. To support the goals of Family Promise of Lincoln County, we gathered goods and funds to donate to the organization, and we are so thrilled with the generosity of our members! Thanks to everyone for donating what you could to this vital community organization.

We hope you found this year's conference to be as successful and meaningful to your work as a financial aid administrator as we did. Annual Conference 2021 is already in the works, and we're hoping you'll join us back at Salishan February 3rd through the 5th! If you are interested in being a part of next year's committee, we encourage you to indicate your interest through the Volunteer Preferences form as soon as possible, as our committee will be shaped soon!

NASFAA Webinar on COVID-19

Join NASFAA President Justin Draeger and NASFAA staff from the AskRegs and Policy teams as they review and follow-up on the most recently passed COVID-19 legislation and guidance from the Department of Education, and answer some of the most common questions related to Title IV and COVID-19. Time will be provided for open Q&A during this 75 minute webinar.

Date: April 2, 2020
Time: 2:00 PM ET
Duration: 75 Minutes
Price: Free

[REGISTER](#)

Speakers



Justin Draeger
President & CEO
NASFAA



Jill Desjean, Presenter
Policy Analyst
NASFAA



David Futrell, Moderator
Knowledgebase & AskRegs Manager
NASFAA



Karen McCarthy
Director of Policy Analysis
NASFAA

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2020 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

By Rylan Wall, Oregon State University

Writing from my own experience as a queer professional, affinity group spaces are incredibly important. Thinking back to my time as a college student, I remember how vital it was that I had a space like our Oregon State University Pride Center that focused on the success and well-being of students like me. Without the center and similar resources, I would have felt isolated and as if no one understood my struggles. Instead, I was supported and validated, and I have no doubt this helped me succeed in earning my degree. My experiences with the Pride Center in fact inspired me to pursue a career in higher education in the first place, to help students in the same ways I had been helped throughout my college experience.



These same sorts of needs carry forward with us as professionals too. When we are surrounded by a dominant culture that is still filled with examples of assumptions, stereotypes, misinformation, personal/institutional/systemic discrimination, violence, and other forms of harm towards queer/trans people, an LGBTQ+ affinity group can be a small reprieve for us. These spaces allow us to heal and be in community with people who have shared similar experiences to our own, without feeling the need to defend or justify those experiences to those that may not have that common understanding. Furthermore, when you have an “invisible” marginalized Identity (where one may not be able to tell how you identify just by looking at you), affinity groups may be the only way to form these connections with other LGBTQ+ professionals. Finally, I believe affinity group spaces actually benefit not just

those with marginalized identities, but the organization as a whole. When we are able to make these connections with our colleagues, we also share resources and information and help other schools and professionals serve our students better. We can identify where there may be gaps in knowledge and help OASFAA make improvements on this basis.

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Word from Vice-Presidents

Frankie Everett, VP Community Colleges

Thanks to Punxsutawney Phil predicting an early end to winter, spring is coming in hot and I'm loving it! I was a little nervous to come back to the wet Pacific Northwest, but this was a good year to dip my toes back in. First, I want to thank y'all for welcoming me back to OASFAA with open arms. I don't know why I ever left! Second, I want to say how wonderful it was to see so many of you at the OASFAA conference this year, especially the community college folks. I was amazed at how well-represented our sector is.

When it comes to financial aid, gone are the days where January 1 begins with "I Got You Babe" on the alarm clock, and we numbly move like Phil Connors through the surreal motions of the academic year. The field of financial aid continues to evolve – the Shopping Sheet is now the College Financing Plan (Bing!), Gainful Employment is out (Bing!), Applied Baccalaureates are in (Bing!), and who the heck knows where things are going with loan repayment and forgiveness (BING!). It's a crazy time for sure, but whether we are learning to tickle the ivory, carve an ice sculpture, or master the whistling belly-button trick in the high school talent show, we have a great group of people to be stuck with... day by day, year by year.

If you have any ideas, thoughts, concerns, or praises you would like to share, please reach out to me or another Executive Council member. I look forward to working with y'all!

Cassie Copeland– VP– Independent Schools

I am very excited to be serving as your Segmental VP for Independent Colleges this year! It was great to catch up with many of you at the OASFAA conference in February. I hope you are all having a great spring term, and remember that you are making a huge difference for your students as you balance helping your current students finish up the year as well as preparing for your incoming students for next school year.

This will be my 4th year as a member of OASFAA, and I have had the opportunity to volunteer on the annual conference committee and high school counselor training committee. I would encourage all of you to consider volunteering for OASFAA this year whether you are brand new to the profession or have been a member of OASFAA for years. Volunteering has been a very rewarding experience for me, and has also increased my network of colleagues across the state who I can call when I have questions. Please update your [volunteer preferences](#) form if you are interested in getting involved, or let me know if I can answer any questions about any of the committees.

As your segmental representative, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions (cassiecopeland@pacificu.edu or 503-352-2820). I would love to hear how OASFAA can better serve you and your institution. Whether you have questions about how to get involved, or if there are any topics that you would like to see OASFAA explore in the coming year, I would love to hear from you!

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Volunteer With OASFAA!



All Committees Now Seeking Volunteers!

We want YOU to volunteer for an OASFAA committee! Whether you're a veteran of the field or brand new, your input and opinions are valued and your help is needed. OASFAA is all volunteer-run, and if you're passionate about the field we work in together, there's something for you. Fill out the [volunteer preferences form](#), or contact Volunteer Coordinator [Jess Kelly](#) with any questions!

Check Out Some Amazing OASFAA Photos!



Have a great photo from the conference that you would like to share? Send it to the [communications committee](#) to be posted on the OASFAA Facebook page!

