



Greetings my fellow Nevadans!

It has been such a whirlwind of a year. Can you believe we are already in August? Your NAFAA Executive Council have been hard at work making sure we BRING NEVADA BACK! I can't thank them enough for their hard work and dedication.

We have a wonderful line up for the conference. A local conference in our home state and the National President, Justin Dreager, Western President, Jack Edwards and me, the State President all under one roof; it is going to be amazing! If you have not seen Justin speak you are in for a real treat. He is extremely passionate and knowledgeable. His sessions are always full. Jack has such a charisma to him that he can turn any topic into a double E (educational entertainment).

NAFAA was very fortunate to get to hold the conference at the Silver Legacy Resort and Casino. This Resort is attached to two other resorts, the Eldorado and the Circus Circus. You never have to go outside to have a wonderful array of activities for adults and kids. Bring the entire family for a mini vacation.

I am looking forward to the conference and most of all the President's reception. This is where I will get a chance to mingle with all of you and thank you for making this all possible. We will be having a raffle of some wonderful prizes highlighting Nevada companies. Make sure you join us for delicious drinks, fabulous food and prestigious prizes on October 11 at 5:30pm before you head downtown for an exciting evening.

I am excited to meet you, please let me know if there is anything I can do for you or your institution and this is your association.

Sincerely,

Breana Conlin

Conference Information

The 2012 NAFAA Annual Conference will be held October 11-12 at the Silver Legacy Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada. In a rare joint appearance join NASFAA president Justin Draeger, WASFAA president Jack Edwards, NAFAA president Breena Conlin, WAC coach of the year UNR head basketball coach David Carter, guest presenters and vendors in one and a half days of updates and training.

Room rates are \$59.00 if made by 9/11/12. Use Group Code NAFAA12. Silver Legacy 800-687-8733.

Be sure to look up at the “Dome” while at the conference for a special message. Visit the NAFAA website for conference information and updates.

<http://www.nafaaweb.org/>

Transitions

Hello NAFAA members, I'm Christina Wray and I joined Prospect Education six months ago as a Financial Aid Coordinator and recently transitioned into a Student Accounts Exist Specialist position. As a Student Accounts Exit Specialist I complete an audit of

the Financial Aid before closing the file. I enjoy learning the different calculations of R2T4. I have over fifteen years of experience in finance however this has been my first venture into the world of Financial Aid other than as a student. During my short time with Prospect Education I have gained perspective into the world of Financial Aid in addition to the entirely new level of respect for the Financial Aid workers who have assisted me in the past. I look forward to continuing to advance my knowledge and understanding of this very complex industry while working with our team of professionals here at Prospect Education as well as through member groups such as NAFAA.

Things to know

Jacquie Carroll
Campus Engagement and Education Consultant
American Student Assistance

Having recently learned that NAFAA is planning its October conference and requesting newsletter submissions, I couldn't help but visit our website. Scrolling through the newsletters and state reports brought a smile to my face. Although we've always been a small association, we've had more fun on a shoestring than most have had with greater resources. We really know how to make our money last! Nevada truly has some of the most passionate and professional people in Financial Aid.

Since many of us know that once you're in Financial Aid you stay there—at times just getting a new college/company shirt or title—I wanted to update you on what your old state president has been up to. I'm still teaching in an adjunct capacity at TMCC. As many of you know, my passion lies with teaching, which is at the heart of student engagement and retention. I believe that getting students access to an education is only the beginning, and the more difficult endeavor is fostering a successful educational experience through graduation and beyond. Money is a key component of that process, and many students struggle with their financial situation, not knowing where to turn for help.

That's where SALTSM comes in. Financial education and assistance is the focus of my current position as a Campus Engagement and Education Consultant for the nonprofit American Student Assistance[®] (ASA). SALT, our membership program, empowers students and alumni to successfully manage and repay their student loan debt—and take charge of their finances for life.

Ninety schools have already teamed up with SALT to educate, empower, and engage their students to own their finances by making it easy, rewarding, and fun. SALT helps them keep track of their student loans, find scholarships, jobs, and internships, and so much more. The program also provides access to expert loan counselors and offers one-on-one financial advice. Online tools help students find ways to use money wisely, and they're even rewarded for making money-smart decisions. Best of all: It's absolutely free for students and alumni of participating colleges and universities. I'm excited to be part of the SALT movement because of what it will mean for new generations of students and alumni. As we say at ASA[®], SALT is starting a financial revolution that will help students and alums get money savvy for life—and I believe that's a noble cause.

College Students Report Changes in Money Management and College Success Behaviors

Submitted by: Brent Dove

USA Funds[®] surveys of students who had received personal finance education through their college or university disclose that nine of 10 respondents changed how they manage their personal finances and college life.

Among the 1,522 students who responded to the quarterly surveys, 90 percent reported changing at least one financial or college success behavior after completing lessons of USA Funds Life Skills[®], an online financial literacy and student success curriculum for college students. Of those students reporting changes in their personal finance behaviors, the respondents reported making an average of 10 behavioral changes.

The five behavioral changes most frequently cited by the survey respondents — along with the number of respondents citing each change — are as follows:

1. I consider if an item is a need or want before purchasing it and spend less on wants. (885 respondents.)
2. I established educational, financial and/or career goals. (879 respondents.)
3. I researched and understand the requirements to complete my program of study. (813 respondents.)
4. I spend more time on activities that help me achieve my educational, financial and career goals. (728 respondents.)
5. I use new or different strategies to manage stressful situations. (718 respondents.)

USA Funds invited all students who had completed at least one USA Funds Life Skills lesson between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2011, to complete an online survey. Respondents could choose from a list of 25 possible personal finance behavior change statements, including topics related to managing school life and student loans, managing student finances and managing personal life issues.

The results indicate that regular exposure to personal finance education can help college students adopt habits that promote completion of their college programs, as well as sound spending and saving practices and wiser use of credit.

In addition to quarterly follow-up surveys, USA Funds assesses the impact of USA Funds Life Skills lessons in the following ways:

- **Student Attitudes.** In a survey offered immediately after a student completes a USA Funds Life Skills lesson, students are asked about their plans to use what they learned. Based on 4,266 surveys completed since February 2012, 93.7 percent of students reported an intent to change a behavior as a result of the lesson. Students rated the likelihood they would use information provided in the lessons as an average of 4.3 on a scale on which 5 designates “very likely.”

- **Student Knowledge.** Students correctly answered an average of 87.7 percent of the questions on post-lesson assessments that follow each USA Funds Life Skills lesson. The result is based on 84,823 lessons completed during the 2011-2012 academic year.

USA Funds Life Skills is a Web-based financial literacy and student success program designed to help students learn to manage their money and time wisely while in school and after graduation. The curriculum includes 34 lessons that cover a range of topics, including paying for college, managing student loans, managing money and credit, living on a budget, setting goals, preparing for graduation and balancing school and personal life.

For more information, visit www.usafunds.org.

SEE YOU AT THE CONFERENCE