



NAFAA Spring 2016 Newsletter

Closing remarks from NAFAA President, Sandi Guidry

It is hard to believe my year as NAFAA President is winding down. I have truly enjoyed representing the state of Nevada. I feel fortunate to have met you this year at our state conference. I was able to serve on the WASFAA Executive Council as your state representative and was asked to chair the State Presidents Group for WASFAA.

Nevada is a growing state and I encourage you to actively get involved. We are a volunteer organization and there are many opportunities for everyone. The rewards are far greater than the effort. I want to take this time to thank those that have been so valuable to NAFAA. Renee Davis and Ashley Salisbury for putting on a great conference. Leonard Walker for being our site selection person. Tawny Crum for organizing our conference scholarship. Nick Boschert and Scott Nielsen for their work on the taxes.

I look forward to seeing you all in Reno at the 2016 NAFAA Conference!

Opening remarks from NAFAA President-Elect, Peter Miller

I am excited about being your NAFAA President for 2016-17. As I take on this leadership role I do want you to know that I am interested in knowing your thoughts regarding the direction NAFAA should take to become bigger and better.

NAFAA got a little lean for a short while and we have made a lot of good progress under the leadership of our past presidents. With your help, we can continue these efforts. NAFAA needs your support, your input and some of your time to accomplish its goals. Please contact me to let me know the area for which you would like to serve. Volunteers are always welcome and needed.

Goals for 2016-17:

- Technology – continued improvement of our website and historical content.
- Increase the NAFAA membership, include more private & proprietary schools and see more members involved in our state association. Conference attendance is critical to the survival of NAFAA.
- Provide input regarding the upcoming reauthorization process.

Please join me and the NAFAA Executive Council in making the NAFAA the best it can be

2016-17 Election Results

The ballots have been counted and the results are in! NAFAA would like to welcome the 2016-17 Executive Council:

Peter Miller, President, Truckee Meadows Community College

Anthony Morrone, President-Elect, Nevada State College

Sandi Guidry, Past-President, University of Nevada, Reno

Sally Mickelson, Secretary, Roseman University of Health Science

J.W. Lazzari, Treasurer, Western Nevada College

2015 NAFAA Conference – Las Vegas, Nv

The 2015 NAFAA Conference Committee would like to thank all those who attended. The 2015 NAFAA Conference was held in Las Vegas, Nv at the Palms Casino Resort. We not only felt that we had a great turnout of attendees but we also had a great line up of presenters and sessions. We kicked off the conference with our 2nd Annual PeopleSoft Pre-Conference session which was held for all NSHE Institutions. The 2015 Conference included sessions from our Federal Representative, Bruce Honer, a session on preparing for a program review from our current WASFAA President, Barbara Bickett, a session on State Aid given by Renee Davis as well as an informative session on fraud and abuse given by an agent from the Office of Inspector General teamed with staff from the College of Southern Nevada. We also heard updates from our NAFAA President Sandi Guidry, WASFAA President Barbara Bickett, NASFAA National Chair Dan Mann and a federal update from Bruce Honer. Again, thank you to all that support the training efforts provided by NAFAA.

Once the conference came to a close, we sent out a survey to the attendees. The NAFAA Executive Council would like to ensure the future conference committees organize a conference that meet the needs of all institutions in Nevada. Of the 36 attendees, 19 completed our survey, providing us with great feedback for the future. Based on survey results, we will continue to have the PeopleSoft Pre-Conference session as 90% of those who took our survey said they would like to continue attending this session. The attendees also felt it is important to continue to have our Federal Representative available at our conference. We will continue to work with Bruce and his team to ensure we have federal representation to provide that pertinent information we need to be successful. We also got great feedback on sessions that attendees would like to see at future conferences, these include areas of financial aid that have consistent audit findings, verification, PPY, financial literacy, strategies for developing Cost of Attendance, private loans, and SULA to name a few. This year, the conference committee will work to accommodate these suggestions as they begin compiling sessions. Finally, a question that we seem to discuss frequently is the need to alternate the location of the conference every year between the north and the south. A majority of those who completed the survey felt it is important to alternate the conference between the north and the south to allow employees to attend if they are unable to travel long distances. The conference committee feels that this important as well as off-setting when the conference is held in the south with when the FSA Conference is held is Las Vegas. We will work to off-set these so that both conferences do not occur in the same year at the same location.

Again, the 2015 Conference Committee would like to thank all that attended as well as those who provided great feedback on the survey. We could not make these conferences possible without YOU!

2015 NAFAA Conference Scholarship Recipients

Amy Reichenberg – Great Basin College

My name is Amy Reichenberg and in October I received the NAFAA Scholarship to attend the 2015 NAFAA Conference in Las Vegas. I was a little nervous about going as this was my first time ever attending one of these functions and I must say that I had a great time. All of the people I met there were very nice and accepting. It was nice to be able to learn about all of the new things that are happening in financial aid with other financial aid officers. I enjoyed all of the sessions provided in the conference but I particularly enjoyed the session on verifications.

I look forward to attending NAFAA conferences in the future. It was a great learning experience that I will always be very grateful for. Thank you so much for choosing me to receive the NAFAA Scholarship.

Tina Holcomb – College of Southern Nevada

It's October 15, 2015 and I'm wandering around the Palms trying to find this year's NAFAA Conference. We are so tiny an association, it's not like NASFAA, a hundred great big gigantic signs to guide me...but I have something better. There stands Leonard Walker at the end of the hallway waiving and guiding the lost NAFAA attendee's to the elevator.

As I step out of the elevator, Sandi Guidry and Tawny Crum are at the registration desk and as they see me, they are already looking for my badge. Personally, I love that NAFAA is so small. I know everyone, and everyone knows me...good or bad. You see, I've been a member of NAFAA for almost all of the 19 years that I've worked in financial aid. I've attended WASFAA's Summer Institute and Management Leadership, multiple trainings, as well as WASFAA and NASFAA conference's and still I look forward our NAFAA conference a great deal.

A lot of people look at me funny when I say this because most offices will think... "I'll just send people to FSA or NASFAA, they'll get better information there", but they forget the golden opportunity that NAFAA almost always has. Because we are so small, we all know each other and make ourselves available to each other. We always invite our Department of Education representative Bruce Honer. These are GOLDEN opportunities for us to talk to people with years of experience and let's face it, at NASFAA or WASFAA, there are just too many other people also trying to get a moment of their time to ask just one question. But here, here is where opportunity is available.

We actually have quite a few people here that are major players in NASFAA & WASFAA and as a member of NAFAA, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with them; learn from them; and on occasion, show them something that I know. My name is Tina Holcomb and this year I received the NAFAA scholarship to attend NAFAA 2015 in Las Vegas. I thank NAFAA for all the opportunities that it's offered me and hope that others recognize the opportunities available in joining and participating in NAFAA.

2016 NAFAA Conference Information

October 19 – afternoon – PeopleSoft Pre-Conference Session

October 20-21 NAFAA Annual Conference

Silver Legacy Resort

Reno, Nv

Room rates \$69 + resort fees and taxes

**Thank you again to our NAFAA members for
your continued support!**

See you in Reno!!