



## NAFAA Spring 2019 Newsletter

### Closing remarks from NAFAA President, Ashley Salisbury

Greetings! It is hard to believe that my year as NAFAA President is coming to a close. I have enjoyed this past year and felt very fortunate to see and meet new faces this year at our annual conference! During this year, I served on the WASFAA Executive Board as the NAFAA representative. I also sat on the WASFAA State Presidents committee where all state presidents in our region met and discussed issues within our states. It was a great learning and collaborative experience.

NAFAA is an all-volunteer organization, so I encourage you to get involved and volunteer. We could not do what we do, without our volunteers. With that said, I would like to thank Anthony Morrone, JW Lazzari, Jenna Eastman, Temple Campana and Sandi Guidry for your outstanding contribution to our conference this year! It was a success and would not have been without your valuable input!

I look forward to continuing the upcoming 2019-20 year as Past-President and seeing you all again at this year's conference.

### Opening remarks from NAFAA President-Elect, JW Lazzari

*Did you survive January? I am assuming, if you are reading this, you did! Congrats, another busy month under your belt!*

As Financial Aid Administrators we are tasked with a number of issues and projects, all coming from different directions. Our determination and ability to stay positive during these trying times can be pushed to the limit by upset students and parents, overbearing administrators, and the sleepless nights worrying about compliance. I encourage you all to take time in February to reflect about the good work you have done. You have helped a multitude of students take another step towards their future, you have succeeded in helping your institution reach their goals, and you did your very best to do it professionally. Take time to congratulate yourself and your team members on a job well done... Financial Aid Administrators don't hear it enough, so on behalf of NAFAA – *Good Job and thank you for the work you do!*

### ***2019 NAFAA Conference Updates***

The Executive Committee will be meeting very soon to begin planning the 2019 NAFAA Conference. As you may have already heard, the 2019 Federal Student Aid Conference will be hosted in Reno! This announcement has shifted our thoughts on where to hold the 2019 Conference. We want to hear from you all about location preference, preferred month, and presentation ideas. Please complete the 2019 NAFAA Conference Survey **by February 22**. You can access the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JYH5JZ7>.

### ***Congrats and Thank You –***

- I would like to thank Ashley Salisbury (University of Nevada, Reno) for her excellent leadership as NAFAA President this year.
- Thank you to Sandi Guidry for chairing the 2018 NAFAA Conference in Reno. It was outstanding!
- Congrats to Anthony Morrone (Nevada State College) on his new role as President-Elect for WASFAA!
- Thank you to the those willing to serve on the 2019-20 NAFAA Executive Council:
  - o Past President: Ashley Salisbury (UNR)
  - o President- Elect: Renee Davis (NSHE)
  - o Secretary: Temple Campana (WNC)
  - o Treasurer: Jenna Eastman (NSC)

I am looking forward to working with all of the outstanding Financial Aid Administrators throughout Nevada during the 2019-2020 year! Have a great Spring semester!

JW Lazzari  
2018-2019 NAFAA President Elect  
Director of Financial Assistance  
Western Nevada College

### **2019-20 Election Results**

The ballots have been counted and results are in! NAFAA would like to welcome the 2019-20 Executive Council:

*JW Lazzari, President, Western Nevada College*  
*Renee Davis, President-Elect, Nevada System of Higher Education*  
*Ashley Salisbury, Past-President, University of Nevada, Reno*  
*Jenna Eastman, Treasurer, Nevada State College*  
*Temple Campana, Secretary, Western Nevada College*

## 2018 NAFAA Conference – Reno, Nv

On behalf of the 2018-19 NAFAA Executive Council, we would like to thank all those who attended the conference this past October! The conference has held in Reno, Nv at the Silver Legacy Resort. We had a wonderful turnout of attendees as well as some great presenters! We kicked off the conference with our annual PeopleSoft Pre-Conference session which was held for all NSHE Institutions. The conference included sessions presented by our Department of Education Representative, Bruce Honer, who prepared topics such as Overawards & Overpayments, Adds Drops and Withdrawals, Year Round Pell as well as the Federal Update. WASFAA President Ashley Munro provided a session on Working More Efficiently, we had representatives from the Office of Inspector General provide a session on Combating Fraud and Abuse and concluded the conference with updates from NASFAA. The luncheon provided by NAFAA allowed time for updates from WASFAA President Ashley Munro as well as the award ceremony recognizing those NAFAA Volunteers for the outstanding contributions to the association. The award recipients were: Scott Nielsen for Distinguished Service, Nicholas Boschert for Distinguished Service, Leonard Walker for President's Award and Anthony Morrone was given his Past-President's plaque.

The 2019 Conference also held its first NASFAA Credential Post-Conference session on Cost of Attendance led by WASFAA President Ashley Munro. We truly appreciate all those who support NAFAA's training efforts as well as those who made this conference a success!

## 2018 NAFAA Conference Scholarship Recipients

This year we were happy to grant two scholarships for the conference!

### **Jack Witt – Sierra Nevada College**

The Sierra Nevada College financial aid department had the pleasure of attending the 2018 NAFAA conference during the week of October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Silver legacy resort and casino in Reno, Nevada. During this conference we covered a wide array of topics that were presented by the U.S. department of Education as well as speakers brought in by the NAFAA organization. Some of the topics that were covered included Over awards and overpayments, Year round Pell issues, and Adds, drops, and withdrawals. These topics were covered by Bruce Honer, an official trainer from the U.S. department of Education. We also had the opportunity to hear Adam Shanedling speak from the Office of the Inspector general regarding the combat of Fraud and abuse.

During the conference there was a lot of information that was geared towards updates from previous years. The federal update was given by Bruce Honer, with some exciting news coming from Mystudentaid. This year, they are rolling out a new mobile application to allow for students and parents to access the FAFSA through an app. We also received updates regarding the new maximums of Pell which increased the by \$175. Some of the information that Bruce spoke upon went over my head during the conference. Although after the conference, Judy and I were able to sit down and clarify anything that I did not understand. Although I have only been at my post for three months, Judy was very able and willing to break down some of the more complicated information for me to comprehend.

One of the more interesting topics that was presented during the conference was that of combating Fraud and abuse. Special Agent Adam Shanedling shared a wide array of different fraud and abuse cases. Upon sharing these stories, it was very clear that there are a variety of different ways to defraud the federal government regarding financial aid. One of the more

shocking stories was that of an individual who used public records to gain access to information that they then used to apply for financial aid across several different institutions. Through my three months at Sierra Nevada I have focused mainly on the processes behind financial aid and was blown away by the extent at which these individuals will go for fraud. Adam highlighted the need to be very aware if anything appears out of the ordinary and to report it to the proper authorities if I find anything significant.

NAFAA President Ashley Salisbury organized a great event that helped me not only gain a deeper understanding of the financial aid processes, it also allowed me to meet other local financial aid advisors and connect on a greater scale. Notably, was Scott Nielsen, the Director of Student Financial services of Great Basin College. Scott was very interactive with our speaker Bruce, and more importantly asked the questions that made many difficult topics easy to understand. His passion for financial aid was very inspiring and even when he had complete understanding of a topic would ask clarifying questions to develop a deeper understanding.

Alongside these trainings the NAFAA organization offered an abundance of resources to help with training or topics that may need clarification. I am very thankful for the opportunity to learn about my profession as well as meet a plethora of helpful individuals.

### **Jackeline Palacios – Nevada State College**

I received the NAFAA scholarship and had the opportunity to attend the 2018 NAFAA conference in Reno. This is the second conference I've attended and this year I was flooded with new information. More information than my poor brain could handle. I have to admit I had a lot of Aha moments throughout the conference. This conference definitely gave me more insight on some subjects I wasn't too confident in. One of those subjects was cost of attendance, luckily there was a workshop and it helped solidify some concepts for me. I definitely feel more confident in explaining what cost of attendance is to our students. The most interesting presentation in my opinion was from the office of the attorney general. I enjoyed hearing about all the cases they have solved throughout the years. I felt like I was watching a crime show hearing the stories. It was awesome and I thank you for this opportunity!

### **2019 NAFAA Conference Information**

Dates and Location are to be determined

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

**See you at the next conference!**