

MASFAA Conference Agenda

Thursday, September 28, 2023

8:00 – 9:00 Light Breakfast

9:00 – 9:15 **Presidents Welcome**

Presented by: Will O’Shea

9:15 – 9:30 **EASFAA President Message**

Presented by: Dr. Danette Burgess, EASFAA President

American University

9:30 – 10:00 **Vendor Break**

10:00 – 11:00

Inside The Beltway

Presented by: NASFAA (Virtual)

This NASFAA Federal Update will provide an overview of the latest happenings in Washington, including a high-level landscape of the current political climate in D.C. with a focus on federal financial aid policy and how it has impacted students and institutions in recent years. Overall trends in student aid will be discussed including recent legislative and regulatory activity, reauthorization proposals and predictions for how student aid funding will fare in future budget negotiations. Movement within the Department of Education concerning negotiated rulemaking and updates from Federal Student Aid (FSA) will also be discussed. The session will also provide an overview of NASFAA-led projects, services, and advocacy efforts.

11:15 – 12: 15

FAFSA Simplification

Presented by: Rebecca McFarland, M.Ed & MA (she/her) Director of Compliance & Training, Student Financial Services Southern New Hampshire University

During this session we will talk about the changes that we are going to be seeing over the next couple of months regarding FAFSA Simplification. Although many of us should now have plans in place, this session will cover the big changes we will see, including the implementation of SAI, the switch to FTI, removal of the housing question, and changes to the language we most commonly use. We will also use this time to chat about how our own institutions are implementing these changes so that others can get insight to help their own! Looking forward to seeing all of you!

12:30 – 2:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 **US Department of Education, Office of Inspector General**

Presented by: Mark Deckett, Resident Agent in Charge and Jeffrey Yung, Special Agent

The presentation will provide background on the Inspector General's Office, explain how you can report fraud allegations to us and give examples of our latest investigations. We will also share some tips on how your school can identify financial aid fraud.

2:15 – 5:15 NASFAA Verification Credential provided by EASFAA

Presented by: Catherine M. Boscher-Murphy

Associate Director/Compliance Officer Montclair State University, NJ

This session will give you the basic principles and processes for verification of a student's FAFSA® application data including:

- when verification is required and for which student applicants
- which data elements must be verified, and what documentation is acceptable
- corrections process, interim disbursements, timeframes, and deadlines
- how verification relates to the exercising of the financial aid administrator's professional judgment authority

This will help you demonstrate the ability to ensure your school's verification policies and procedures result in the use of accurate data to establish eligibility for need-based federal student aid.

2:15 – 3:15

How can your financial aid website improve college access?

Presented by Tara Durante, Caerus Communications

What does your financial aid website have to do with college access? Everything. Many first-generation and low-income students navigate the financial aid process on their own, relying on your website for help along the way. When financial aid websites are built to serve students, we see better enrollment and degree attainment rates. In addition, a student-centric financial aid website can reduce the number of student questions about financial aid, improving your staff's service to students who need direct guidance.

This session will examine the connections between financial aid communications and college access. We'll also explore some ways to approach auditing your financial aid website for future improvements.

3:15 – 3:45 **Vendor Break**

3:45 – 4:45

Financial Aid Jeopardy

Presented by: Julie Lawton, Cognition Financial

A fun interactive way to test your financial aid knowledge and learn something new! Great refresher questions for long timers and great training for newbies! Categories include: FAFSA, Potpourri,

Verification, Student Loans, and more. Join us in a game of Financial Aid Jeopardy where you will be split up into teams to see who takes home the win.

5:30 – 6:30 Cocktail Hour

6:30 Dinner & Entertainment

Friday, September 29, 2023

8:00 – 9:00 Breakfast & Business Meeting

8:30 – 9:30 FAME

9:30 – 10:00 **Vendor Break**

10:00 – 11:00

Supporting New Mainers – Tools, Resources, and Pathways to Help Students Overcome Challenges

Presented by Floreka Malual, FAME

This session will start with an overview of the New Mainer section for the FAME website where many tools and resources will be shared. Next, there will be a discussion of the pathways for federal student aid eligible students as well as strategies for students who don't qualify for federal student aid. Join us to learn more about the challenges faced and opportunities AVAILABLE to our New Mainer students.

10:00 – 1:00 **NASFAA Cost of Attendance Credential provided by EASFAA**

Presented by: Catherine M. Boscher-Murphy

Associate Director/Compliance Officer Montclair State University, NJ

This session will give you the basic principles and processes of student budget construction including:

- standard components of a student's cost of attendance (COA)
- allowable additional costs
- rules related to recalculation of the COA
- help to ensure your school's COA policies and procedures result in the construction of accurate and appropriate student budget

We will also cover:

- Cost of Attendance Restrictions
- Recalculations and Non-Title IV Aid

11:00 – 12:00 Gen Z: Connecting with a New Generation of Students

Presented by: Maureen Fagan, Sallie Mae

Delivering a positive student experience relies on understanding their service expectations. This session will focus on distancing yourself from previously held expectations, exercising empathy in your student services role, and share strategies for increasing the engagement with the students you serve.

12:00 – 1:00 Breaking Bad and Building New Habits – Based on the book, Atomic Habits, by James Clear

Presented by: Donna Shelby, Citizens

Just as atoms are the building blocks of molecules, atomic habits are the building blocks of remarkable results. This session will show you how a little habit, no matter how small, can be an important part of a larger system to succeed. Just as important is learning how to break (or change) a bad habit that's barring you from success.

1:00 Light Lunch