



Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

THE INFORMER

The Quarterly IASFAA Newsletter

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Conference Planning

By Shelly Brimeyer

I was so pleased when Facebook introduced a new emoji in April – the ‘care’ emoji. It just made reacting to various posts about the pandemic very relevant as we coped with an entirely new “normal.” Even now, as we are still coping, things that seemed abnormal before are becoming more commonplace in our daily habits — wearing masks, social distancing, ‘air’ hugs and online shopping, which I’ll confess I had to curb after two months of working from home!

The emergence of the new emoji shortly after the CARES Act was approved seemed ironic to me and maybe a little too coincidental

— who knows? What is known, however, is that the IASFAA Executive Council is using care and compassion while planning the spring 2021 conference in Cedar Rapids.

You might remember the conference was originally scheduled for three dates in early November, but due to the ongoing pandemic, The Hotel at Kirkwood Center provided us with available dates during spring 2021. We settled on March 24 – 26, 2021, which no doubt pleases a good majority of IASFAA membership since those are Wednesday through Friday dates! ;)

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Conference Planning, cont.

The conference site has assured us they are following all health guidelines regarding the coronavirus, and we are discussing how the session format and meals can safely occur if the pandemic continues. A NASFAA speaker and federal trainer have been requested, and some virtual accommodations are being explored, as well. But we know how much IASFAA members value the networking and friendships that take place at the IASFAA conference.

With a stretch of 17 months since the fall 2019 conference, by March we'll be overdue for some in-person conversations and welcoming smiles, even if those smiles are behind masks! The program and site committees will begin planning before 2020 concludes and will be sure to keep you updated about the format, session topics and registration. Both committees welcome new members, so be sure to send either Shelly Brimeyer (Program) or Kristi Fuller (Site) a message if you're interested in joining us. Meanwhile, stay safe and healthy and know that IASFAA cares — we'll hope to see you all soon!

ICAN and FAFSA

By Erick Danielson

Just like every other entity in the world, COVID has proved to be challenging at ICAN. Since middle of March all staff have been working from home.

But with every challenge comes new opportunities. Since March we have been helping families filling out FAFSA forms through Zoom. Students/families can make appointments with us either by going on line at www.icansucceed.org/apt or calling us at 877-272-4692.

I would encourage scheduling online at this time of year as we are doing back to back appts. When a family schedules an appt they will get info from us about what they will need for the appt including 2019 tax info, W2s and FSA IDs. The day before the appt they then get a Zoom Invite from us that also details what exactly they will need and instructions on what will make the Zoom appt go the best way possible.

During the Zoom appointments, the students/families then share their screens with the ICAN rep that is helping them, and the ICAN rep walks them through the form on what they need to put in.

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Save the Date!

The next IASFAA Virtual Happy Hour will take place on Thursday,
November 12th at 5:00 PM

ICAN and FAFSA, cont.

The students/parents are in control of inputting the info, but we guide them where to look for the info that they need from their taxes or W2s.

I would never have believed it would be going as well as it has since March. Looking back, I wish it didn't take a pandemic to force us to see how technology could be used this way but again that is where it usually takes a challenge to see these new opportunities.

We have also broadcast our presentations through Zoom Webinar and Facebook Live events since March. The amount of people that have attended our events on line has far exceeded what we normally get in person. Plus, students/families can see the webinars or Facebook Live events on demand on their own time.

While all of us at ICAN hope to get back to "normal" soon we do like what we have been able to accomplish with the hand dealt to us with the technology at our disposal.

Starting Oct. 5, we began to have one person taking office appointments in our Hiawatha office on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. As well as once a week on Fridays in our Davenport space. Those are by appointment only. No walk-ins. Again, those can be found on line at: www.icansucceed.org/apt

To everyone out there that helps students/families, good luck during these trying times and don't hesitate to reach out if you would like a little more info on how we are handling FAFSA appointments this year.

Announcements

Tristan Lynn and his wife, Eileen, welcomed a baby girl! Scarlet Marie Lynn was born on October 5, 2020. Congratulations to Tristan and Eileen!

Chad Olson will take over as MASFAA President during the business meeting on October 29th.

Shea Stamp has been hired as a new Assistant Director at Cornell College.

Dan Marlow has been hired as a new Financial Aid Counselor at Luther College.

Clarissa Snapper was hired in July as a Financial Aid Counselor at Mercy College of Health Sciences. This comes after Randi Boelkes was made Financial Aid Director and Joe Brookover was made Senior Financial Aid Director last November.



Member Voices

We asked for your favorite TV show or movie that you have been bingeing!

- **David Bowman** (Nelnet) "I've reconnected with the TV show "Life in Pieces" via Hulu. And I've nearly stopped watching all network programming in exchange for a different movie each night of the week on Netflix. It's been nice to "get lost" in a different world and put aside the reality of our existing world for a few hours!"
- **Traci Drechsler** (SoFi) "One way my friends in our neighborhood have made for a fun night is watching and forming our own "Bachelor Nation" and having gatherings at different houses each week. We draw our teams "men or ladies" at the beginning of the season and all throw in a bottle of wine for the winner it is great distraction. We social distance and some choose just to watch at home and text back and forth with us throughout the night on the funny happenings. Just a fun, relaxing way to spend a work night - maybe it would work in your neighborhood!"
- **Shelly Brimeyer** (Iowa Student Loan) "We've gotten hooked on the following TV series: Great British Baking Show, The Handmaid's Tale, Ozark, Schitt's Creek (just finished the final season and bawled), Call the Midwife (me more so than Gary), Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, watched both seasons of Jack Ryan. When I can, I try to catch up on Grey's Anatomy, Madam Secretary and The Crown."
- **Debbie Murphy** (Acsendium) " My favorite show right now is Schitts Creek. 😊 My kids introduced me to it recently and now I binge watch it on Netflix regularly."
- **Denise Stowman** (Drake University) "I have been watching Heartland on Netflix during the last few months - many seasons so it has kept me happy to watch many."

Connect with us!

Please send content suggestions or member updates to
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