



Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

# THE INFORMER

*The Quarterly IASFAA Newsletter*

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## New Leadership

With July 1 comes the start of a new fiscal year, and with that the new IASFAA Executive Board and committee leadership begins.

The 21-22 year the IASFAA Executive Board is below, note that Ean Freels was set to be President, but after leaving his position at DMACC he was no longer able to fill his position. Brandi Miller has now stepped into the President role in his place, this leaves the President-Elect position vacant for the time being.

**President** - Brandi Miller, Drake University

**Past President** - Beth Davenport, Mount Mercy University

**Vice President** - Kelsey Ryder, University of Iowa

**Treasurer** - Brittany Peterson, Iowa State University

**Treasurer-Elect** - Sara Sroka, University of Dubuque

**Secretary** - Karna Hofmeyer, Northwestern Iowa Community College

**Delegates-at-Large** - Lori Evans, Iowa Central College; Sarah Freestone, Grandview University; Gary Adams, Iowa Student Loan

## 2021-2022 Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

**Awards** - Trish Morris (chair) and Mark Freed (co-chair)

**Community Outreach** - Kylee Klommhaus (chair) and Matt Falduto (co-chair)

**Communications** - Tristan Lynn (chair) and Sheila Goodwin (co-chair)

**Electronic Services** - Mary Jacobsen (chair) and Chris Ditter (co-chair)

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## New Leadership, cont.

**Exhibitor Relations** - Barb Badger (chair) and Kylee Klommhaus (co-chair)

**Professional Development** - Zach Gries (chair) and Gisella Baker (co-chair)

**Program** - Shelly Brimeyer (chair) and Randy Mashek (co-chair)

**Site Coordination** - Cassandra Brown (chair) and Kristi Fuller (co-chair)

## Spotlight: MASFAA Leadership Symposium

*By Alice Bunjer - Financial Aid Director, Faith Baptist Bible College & Theological Seminary*

*Alice was the IASFAA scholarship recipient to attend the Leadership Symposium*

I had the privilege of attending the MASFAA Leadership Symposium June 7-11 at the beautiful Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI. The purpose and mission of MASFAA is “to promote and provide quality training and professional development opportunities, to advocate and support financial aid programs, and to facilitate effective communication and coordination among interrelated professional associations, thereby serving the needs and interests of students and post-secondary institutions”.



Osthoff Resort, site of the Leadership Symposium

At the conference, I was able to meet other professionals from other institutions. We were a mixture of Directors, Assistant Directors, Advisors, Specialists, and Coordinators from six different states representing universities, community colleges, private and specialized colleges. Even though each institution represented was unique in its own way, we all had one thing in common – the desire to better ourselves in our profession in order to help our students.

We were challenged to see ourselves as leaders in our field. The varied sessions gave us great ways of learning how to solve conflicts, building a strong team, ideas to boost morale in the office, and managing our time while keeping the whole office operational. Our eyes were opened to see the realization of diversity, equity and inclusion facing our offices and our students, while also being challenged to see the need for advocacy – why it matters and how to do it.

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## Leadership Symposium, cont.

We had open forum time to hear from other professionals who have “been around the block” and were willing to share their stories and experiences – what worked, and what didn’t work. They encouraged us to know that they were in our positions once, but “took the plunge” to get involved on their state and regional levels, which not only broadened their knowledge and perspective, but also brought openings and opportunities for promotions.

MASFAA also gave us two credential tracks (with the free test opportunity) from NASFAA, so that we can advance in our careers.

However, the highlight of the week was getting to know the other participants. Their friendliness and willingness to connect, during not only the week but also going forth, exchanging email addresses and offering their help whenever I have questions was and will be invaluable to me.

If I can leave you with one thought – get involved with our state association! It will allow you to get out of your office and meet the special group of professionals that work in the financial aid world! No matter what institute we work for, our goal is the same, become the best we can be in order to help our students succeed.

## Announcements

**Georgeann Lucewich**, financial aid specialist at Scott Community College, retired at the end of June after 26 years of working in financial aid.

**Sue Geerts** retired from Clinton Community College on June 30th after 33 years in financial aid.

**Carolyn Gentz** became the financial aid assistant at Hawkeye Community College at the beginning of June. She was previously employed at Hawkeye as the Financial Aid Specialist.

**Whitney Cook** recently joined Hawkeye Community College as the Financial Aid Outreach Advisor. Prior to coming to Hawkeye, Whitney worked at Kirkwood Community College in the Foundation Office and the University of Minnesota-Rochester in the One Stop office.

**Pam Smith** recently left her position at Drake University after 17 years in order to spend more time at home and with her grandkids.



Carolyn Gentz



Whitney Cook

# Announcements, cont.

**Mary Bloomingdale** resigned from her position at NIACC after 30 years, she shared the following with IASFAA: "I have loved working with all of you. Your friendships mean the world to me. I look forward to seeing you when our paths cross again."

After 32 years of working in financial aid (23 of those years at Drake and 9 at Grand View), **Jolaine Sweiger** retired at the end of June.

## Years of Service

**Without an in person conference this past year we wanted to recognize the IASFAA members who hit milestones with their years of service in 2020. Congratulations and we look forward to continuing to celebrate at the IASFAA conference in the fall!**

### 35 Years of Service

Cindy Seyfer - University of Iowa  
Gretchen Zimmermann - Grinnell College

### 30 Years of Service

Sheri Knipe - Southeastern Community College  
Mary Payne - Des Moines University

### 25 Years of Service

Jen Sassman - Wartburg College

### 20 Years of Service

Shelly Brimeyer - Iowa Student Loan  
Kelly Carrelll - University of Iowa  
Beth Davenport - Mount Mercy University  
Anita Mallette - Palmer College of Chiropractics  
Brandi Miller - Drake University  
Sherry Untiedt - Des Moines Area Community College

### 15 Years of Service

Todd Brown, Iowa College Student Aid Commission  
Matt Falduto, Kirkwood Community College  
Seth Gage, Wartburg College  
Aimee Nelson, Western Iowa Tech Community College  
Ben Rikkels, Des Moines Area Community College

### 10 Years of Service

Stacey Abell, Southeastern Community College  
Eric Anderson, Northwestern College  
Renae Armentrout, Coe College

### 5 Years of Service

Heidi Aitchison, Waldorf University  
Cassandra Brown, Kirkwood Community College  
Zach Gries, Loras College  
Harlan Harmelink, Dordt College  
Lynn Longstreth, Muscatine Community College

## Connect with us!

Please send content suggestions or member updates to  
[tristan.lynn@iowa.gov](mailto:tristan.lynn@iowa.gov).



Like the IASFAA page on Facebook for more  
updates and photos!



# Member Voices

We asked about your summer experiences so far and things you are looking forward to!

- **Deb Gossman** (College Ave) " This summer we are looking forward to a trip to Lake Michigan—Saugatuck and South Haven the first week of July for fun and to spend time with family we have not seen in over a year."

- **Brandi Miller** (Drake) "I kicked my summer off with attending the MASFAA Leadership Symposium in Elkhart Lake, WI last week (June 7-10). I will be hosting the IASFAA Summer Retreat for 2021-22 Executive Council on July 22, 2021 in Des Moines on Drake University's campus. Last but not least, I will spending a week on Ragbrai. These are just a few things I have going on this summer. Attached is picture of me while at MASFAA Leadership and the other is a cycling picture when I rode a day of Ragbrai in the past."



Brandi Miller

- **Shelly Brimeyer** (Iowa Student Loan) "Gary and I had a great time visiting his son and two grandkids in San Antonio, TX in May. Looking forward to a trip to the lake at my brother's in Minnesota in August! In between, work continues on yard-sprucing and home renovations. It's never-ending!"
- **Sara Edwards** (Citizens) "I plan to spend as much time as I possible can this summer with my first grandchild that is due on June 10th! "
- **Kelsey Ryder** (University of Iowa) "We took a trip to Portland, Oregon (to use our cancelled flight vouchers from last April) to visit my sister-in-law. We went out to the coast and spent time in the city. It was great to get away!"



Kelsey Ryder