



THE INFORMER

The Quarterly IASFAA Newsletter

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Did You Know? IASFAA's New Institutional Membership is Here!

As of the 2024-2025 membership year, IASFAA has transitioned to an Institutional Membership model for Iowa colleges and universities. Memberships are now processed by institution or organization, rather than by individual staff members. Renewal applications can only be accessed by your organization's designated Key Contact, who manages membership on behalf of your institution. Associate Members can annually choose between individual or institutional membership options. Instructions are provided to guide you through this process each year. If you have any questions about your membership, feel free to contact Duane Polsdofer, Membership Chair, at duane.polsdofer@waldorf.edu.

Recap!

2025 IASFAA CONFERENCE

FAFSA AND FURIOUS

IASFAA's recent spring conference was one for the books! With the highest attendance since 2010, this event brought together professionals from across the state for learning, networking, and collaboration.

By The Numbers

- **Total Attendees:** 166 – *our largest turnout in 15 years!*
- **New Attendees:** 36
- **Business Officer Attendees:** 25 – *a growing area of engagement!*
- **Top-Rated Session:** *Caring for Self While Caring for Others: You're Hardy and You Know It!* – led by Barry A. Schreier, PhD, H.S.P.
- **Overall Conference Rating:** 4.51/5

Presenter Breakdown

Our 31 conference presenters represented a wide range of institutions and perspectives. Their insights and diverse perspectives made for rich and engaging sessions across the board. Thank you to all who stepped up to share their knowledge!

- 6 – Community Colleges
- 6 – Public Schools
- 5 – Private Schools
- 3 – Bureau of Iowa College Aid
- 2 – Graduate Schools
- 2 – Lending Institutions
- 2 – Business Officers
- 1 – ICAN
- 4 – Special Guests



I enjoyed hearing how both schools do onboarding and training their student staff. Interesting to hear both perspectives. I LOVED the interactive feature to allow for conversations. The presenters were clearly very well prepared. great job!

"This session reminded me why I am in financial aid and added to my deep respect for our profession."

"Loved this session. I left feeling inspired and so proud to be part of an organization that has so many wonderful women in leadership!"

"Lupe was great and was very blunt on a topic that is very much impacting students and other citizens of our country. She was raw and real by drawing from her own experiences... Very eye opening. Great speaker!"

2025 Conference Award Winners



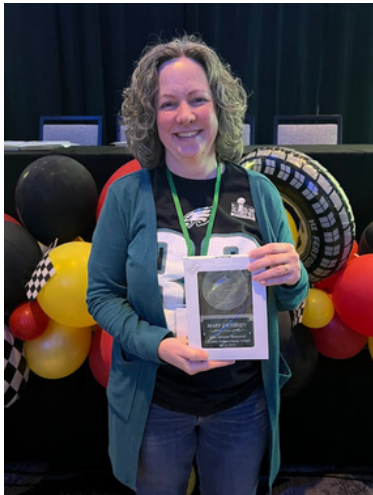
Ryan Zantingh (Drake)
Presidential Award



Jacob Severn (ISU)
Outstanding New
Professional Award



Brandi Miller (Drake)
Genevieve Watson
Diversity Award



Mary Jacobsen (ISU)
John Heisner Memorial
Lifetime Achievement Award



**Renee Armentrout (Coe
College)** John C. Parker
Distinguished Service Award



Sara Sroka (Dubuque)
Outstanding Committee
Member Award



**Kirkwood
Community College**
Fabulous Frieda Award



Shelly Adams (ISL)
Gary Adams Meritorious
Service Award



Iowa State University
John E. Moore Award

Conference Charity Update



319.398.3943 | 877.653.3121
819 Fifth St. SE
P.O. Box 667
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-0667

April 22, 2025

Sarah Freestone, President
Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
400 E. 14th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319-9000

Dear Sarah,

On behalf of Horizons and our clients, we thank the Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators for its \$1,600* gift to the Financial Wellness Center.

Since our opening in 1960, we have remained committed to our mission to *instill hope, strengthen communities, and brighten futures* by providing services that are essential to the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Corridor. We are better together by making sure that everyone has what they need in this time of uncertainty.

Because of the generosity of community members like you, we can continue our efforts of ensuring the basic needs of the most vulnerable in the community are being met by providing food to older adults, transportation to essential workers, and financial counseling to keep people in their homes. Once again, we thank you for helping create promising futures for the individuals we serve at Horizons.

Sincerely,

Jim Miller
Director of Development

*Thank you so much for
your support of Horizons
and a great state conference!*

This donation was made without any exchange in goods or services. Horizons, A Family Service Alliance is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. EIN #42-1135083

NEW FAAC MEMBERS!

Congratulations to the MANY new FAAC Members in IASFAA! Your hard work and dedication to the financial aid profession are recognized in this great accomplishment!

- Cassandra Brown
- Lesley Buse
- Bridget Dusek
- Randy Mashek
- Kelsey Ryder
- Randi Weber
- Ryan Zantingh



Stay Connected with the IASFAA Listserv!

Are you taking advantage of the IASFAA Listserv? This valuable tool is designed for IASFAA members to quickly and efficiently share relevant information with fellow members.

[What is the IASFAA Listserv?](#)

The IASFAA Listserv is an email-based platform that allows members to easily disseminate and receive updates, announcements, and other important information related to the financial aid profession and our association.

How to Subscribe or Post a Message

It's simple!

1. Click on IASFAA Listserv.
2. Navigate to My Features > E-Lists to subscribe or post a message.

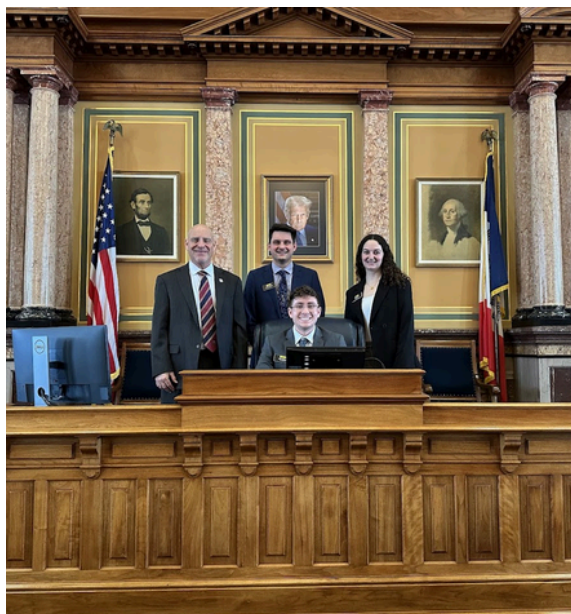
Join the conversation and stay in the loop with timely updates from your IASFAA community. Don't miss out—sign up today!

Throwback: Day at the Hill

**The editor of the newsletter forgot to include a major February event in the last newsletter!*

The annual IASFAA Day at the Hill, hosted on February 28, was a success! All members who attended had the opportunity to talk to members from Congress and Senate about ongoing financial aid issues. By attending this event, these IASFAA Professionals had the opportunity to enhance the relationship between Financial Aid Professionals and State Representatives!

Thank you to the Community Outreach Committee for organizing a great event!



Credential Sessions!

Thank you to the Professional Development Committee for hosting numerous credential sessions throughout spring. These sessions allowed an extensive number of IASFAA Professionals a training opportunity to earn a new credential.



IASFAA Time Machine: Guess Who?

Can you name these IASFAA Professionals? Almost all of these archive pictures feature current IASFAA members! Play a game of guess who, and check your answers at the bottom of the page.

1



Can you guess these IAFSAA Professionals?

Two of them are currently involved in IASFAA!

One of these professionals is no longer involved in IASFAA, but is a former IASFAA President.

Another member in this photo is retired from Iowa College Aid.

2



Can you guess these IAFSAA Professionals?

Both of them are currently involved in IASFAA!

1. From left to right: Joan Meyer (former IASFAA president), Pam Perry (Cornell College), Luann Beckel (retired from financial aid), Erick Danielson (ICAN)
2. Chris Ditter (Drake University) and Mary Jacobsen (Iowa State University)

Guess Who?

3

**Can you guess this IAFSAA Professional?**

This individual is currently involved in IASFAA.

4

**Can you guess these IAFSAA Professionals?**

The individual on the left recently retired from Simpson College.
The individual on the right is still involved in IASFAA!

5

**Can you guess this IAFSAA Professional?**

She is currently involved in IASFAA!

3. Tristan Lynn (Bureau of Iowa College Aid)
4. Bev Hickman (retired from Simpson College) and Shelly Adams (ISL)
5. Kelsey Ryder (University of Iowa)

Guess Who?