

Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

THE INFORMER

The Quarterly IASFAA Newsletter

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

CHELT SERVICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023-2024 Executive Council

Thank you to everyone who ran for office. Congratulations to our new Executive Council.

President: Matt Falduto, Kirkwood Community College
President Elect: Sarah Freestone, Grand View University
Vice President: Sara Sroka, University of Dubuque
Secretary: Jess Graham, University of Iowa
Treasurer: Tristan Lynn, ICSAC
Treasurer Elect: Ryan Zantingh, Drake University
Delegate: Kylee Klommhaus, Southwestern Community College

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. --*Elizabeth Andrew*

Thank you to our members volunteering in leadership roles!





Simple. Translated. Access. Addressing Linguistic Equity in College Access

One of the biggest challenges institutions of Higher Education face is providing college access that is linguistically equitable.

The admissions and financial aid processes are all quite complex and extensive. For native Englishspeaking students and parents, navigating the college processes can be very complicated and stressful. For non-native English-speakers, language adds another layer of difficulty.

The Center for Higher Education Linguistics and Translation (CHELT), was created by Dr. Zachary W. Taylor of the University of Southern Mississippi, in 2015, to address language inequities in college access. CHELT aims to simplify application content and processes, and also translate the content into languages that any university determines useful and relevant for their institution. The end result is that everyone is receiving the same, clear, information no matter what language is provided.



What is different about this service from other translation services?

For starters, CHELT's services are FREE. Yes, you read that correctly, FREE. Higher Education institutions pay \$0 for these services.

Additionally, not only are your materials being translated to fit your linguistic population, but content is simplified. This matters. Dr. Taylor conducted research on roughly 300 universities, looking at their "How To" instruction pages from the web. It was very common to find an absence of actual "How To" instruction. These "How To" pages were bogged down with excessive information that was irrelevant to the application stages of admissions and financial aid. CHELT's service helps declutter your content and make all language versions you receive convey the same exact message and information. Simple. Translated. Access.

Continued on next page...



How does this work?

The center has a large pool of "Affiliates." Affiliates are professionals that are committed to students and access to education.

The first group of affiliates involve subject-matter experts in admissions, financial aid, housing, student conduct, academic advising, adult and returning education, intercultural affairs, LGBTQIA+ organizations, student activities, and many more areas.

The second group of affiliates are language content experts. These affiliates will translate the simplified content into the languages your university needs. They also make sure that language variation is accurate to your population's needs.

If you think CHELT could help your university, or you want to learn more:

Visit <u>https://chelt.org/</u> or <u>https://chelt.org/talk/</u> to send a request for more information. Dr. Taylor will reach out to set up a consulting meeting.

You can also contact Liz Becker from the University of Iowa, CHELT Assistant Director for the Midwest Region: *<u>liz-becker@uiowa.edu</u>*



IASFAA Website Features

There is valuable information and useful tools available to members on the IASFAA website at <u>www.iasfaa.com</u>.



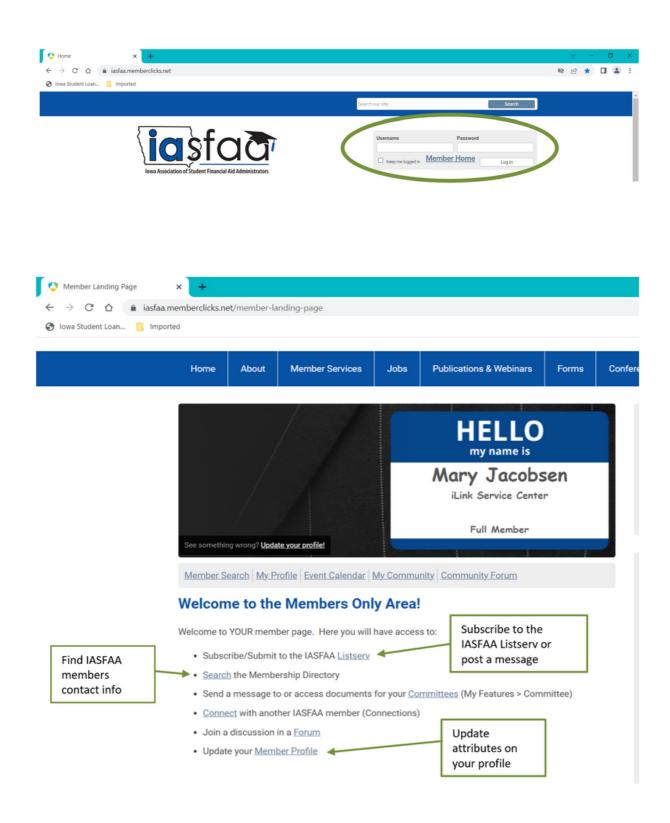
From the homepage, you can access any part of the IASFAA site using the top navigation:

- About lists IASFAA Leadership, Exec Council meeting minutes and governing documents like P&P
- Post available jobs at your institution or search available jobs under **Jobs**
- Publications & Webinars gives you issues of The Informer and IASFAA by the Numbers
- Submit Award nominations and find important IASFAA forms at the Forms page
- Stay up-to-date with training opportunities under **Conferences and Training**
- Send messages to the membership through the Listserv on the right hand navigation
 See below for signing up for the Listserv

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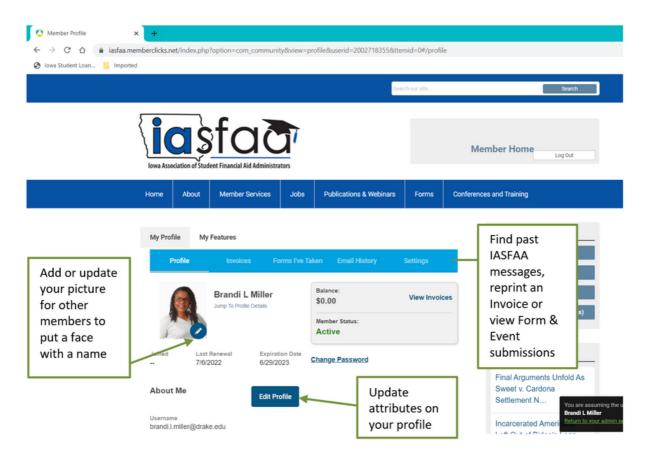
Website Features, cont.

Members Only Area



Website Features, cont.

My Profile page



Invoices from My Profile tab

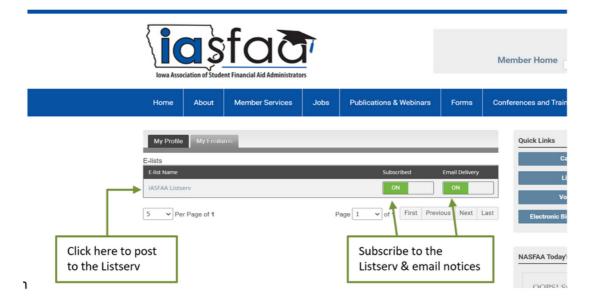
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Website Features, cont.

IASFAA Listserv

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Announcements

Grace Heimer joined the financial aid office at **North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC)** in December 2022. She is the new Financial Aid Advisor/VA Certifying Official, and previously worked at Wells Fargo in Austin, Minnesota.

Matthew Anderson and Rory Van Gorp started in December as financial aid advisors at University of Iowa. Both are recent University of Iowa graduates. We also welcomed Kristin Sellers as a Senior Associate Director over systems operations and processes, Kristin worked in the University of Iowa Billing office prior to moving over to financial aid. Finally we brought Nick Zika on board as an Associate Director over processing and verification, Nick made the move to UI from Iowa State's financial aid office. We are excited to have all these new staff on board!

As you may have gathered from the posting of my own vacant position to the IASFAA listserv, my last day at **Mercy College** was January 6th. While I'll be staying in Higher Education, my next career pursuit is taking me away from financial aid (at least for now!).

I'll be joining the Student Affairs office at Des Moines University, but I don't know that I'll ever find a community quite like the one I've found in financial aid and specifically IASFAA. Thank you all for your friendship, support, and commiseration throughout the years. If you feel so inclined, please feel free to look me up and send a request to connect on social media. I'd love to stay in touch, and absolutely look forward to following your collective successes as you continue to carry out the important work on behalf of our students & institutions!



Joe Brookover

A note from Aaron Steffens...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the IASFAA membership for bestowing upon me the **John Heisner Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award** at the annual fall conference. Unfortunately, I was unable to be in attendance and didn't actually learn of the honor until early December. I'm both humbled by and appreciative of this honor and want to remind everyone that our professional organizations need the volunteerism of everyone from the President to a first-time committee member in order to be successful!