



ISFAA New Professional

Starting Stronger Together: A Newcomer's
Welcome!

Presenters:

Sarah Owen, Ivy Tech Community College

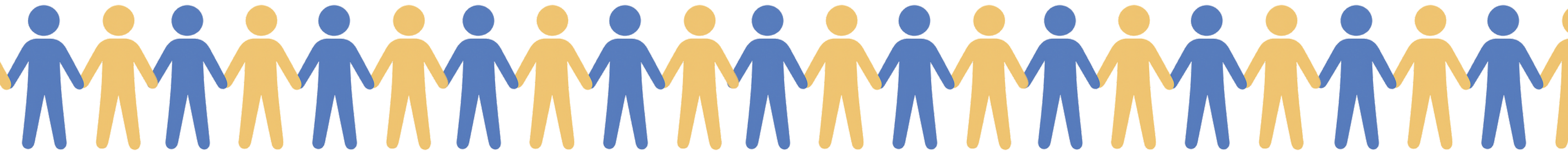
Amber Phillips, IU Indianapolis



Annual Conference
March 11 - 13, 2026

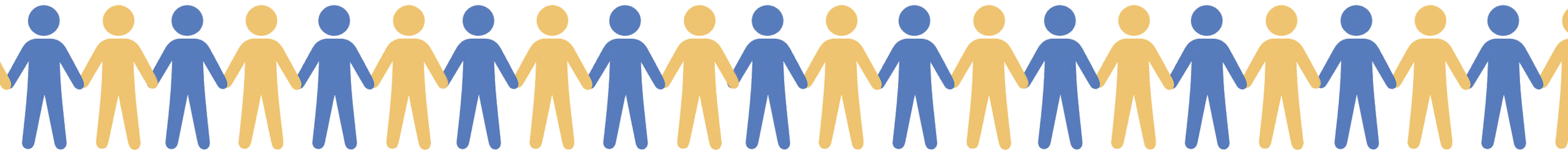
Agenda

- What is ISFAA?
- History
- ISFAA Membership Benefits
- Conference Tips
- How to get involved with ISFAA



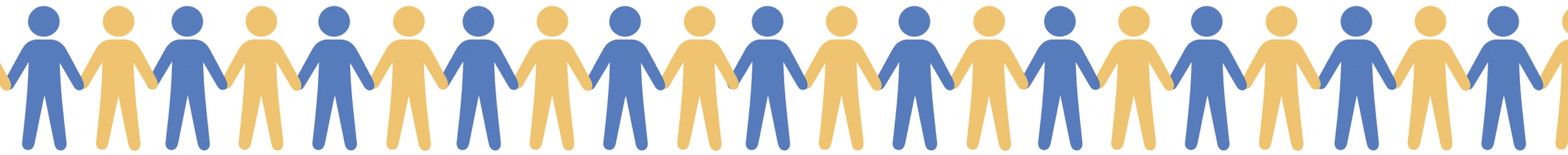
What is ISFAA?

- Volunteer organization interested in helping students meet their costs for higher education
- Members include college & university financial aid administrators, lenders, guarantors, and other associated organizations and individuals
- More than a conference you attend once a year or get emails from a few times a month



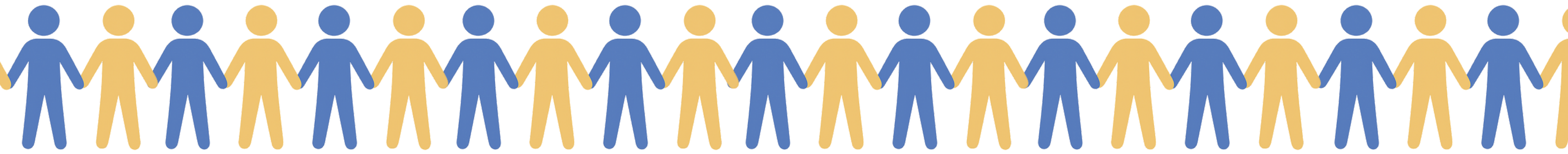
What is ISFAA?

- Serve the needs of students through community outreach
- Promote the professional development of those who administer student financial aid
- Advocate on matters relating to the development, funding, and administration of student financial aid at the state, regional, and national levels



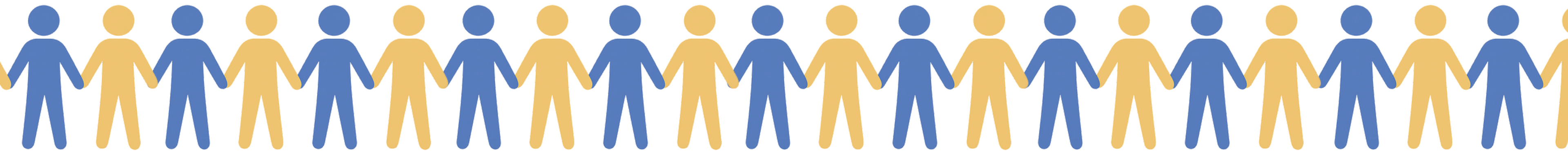
What is ISFAA?

- **Mission:** To cultivate talent of financial aid administrators in Indiana, promote communication and collaboration among its members across the state, and advance and share best and promising practices consistent with standards in the field.
- **Vision:** To be a dynamic, affordable, broadly representative member -driven organization providing advocacy, mentorship, and professional development for its members to promote and advance the field of financial aid administration in the state of Indiana through intentional engagement with students, families, and other stakeholders.



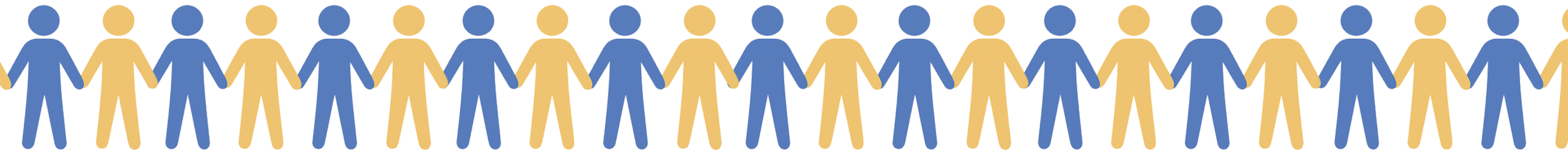
ISFAA's History

- Founded in 1935 by the four state universities as the State High School Testing Committee
- 1940s: Instrumental in creating the concept of a “financial aid office” on college campuses
- 1952: Private colleges & universities joined
- 1960s: Shaped the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the State Scholarship Act of Indiana (which created SSACI, now ICHE)
- 1967: After a few name changes, we became ISFAA!
- 1989-90: College Goal Sunday began in Indiana. It became a national event in the mid - 2000s.
- Visit <https://www.isfaa.org/history> for more info!



ISFAA's Membership Benefits

- Involvement and training opportunities
 - NASFAA credential sessions
 - Webinars
 - FAAC prep workshops
 - Support Staff Workshop
- Access to quarterly newsletters
- Leadership development
- Network with colleagues and exchange ideas
- Ability to post and search job vacancies on the ISFAA website
- Be apart of an association with a strong, well -respected voice regionally & nationally



ISFAA's Website

- View Committee Information
- Review the bylaws
- Look at past newsletters
- Read the Exec Committee Meeting minutes
- Financial aid night materials/presentations
- Register for events
- View job postings
- Visit the ISFAA store



The screenshot shows the ISFAA website homepage. At the top left is the ISFAA logo, which includes a blue outline of the state of Indiana and the text "ISFAA" in large blue letters, with "Indiana Student Financial Aid Association" in smaller yellow text below it. To the right of the logo is a grey rectangular area containing a "Log Out" button. Below the logo and button is a blue navigation bar with white text for the following links: Home, About ISFAA, Membership Information, Conferences and Training, School Counselors, and Support ISFAA. The main content area features a large photograph of a white wooden gazebo on a campus path surrounded by trees. Below the photo is a welcome message from the president, Colby Shank, for the 2025-2026 year. To the right of the welcome message is a "Quick Links" sidebar with five buttons: My Profile, NASFAA News, Employment Listings, ISFAA Store, and Donate to ISFAA. At the bottom of the page is a decorative border consisting of a row of alternating blue and yellow stylized human figures holding hands.

Welcome to the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association (ISFAA)

Hello ISFAA members,

It's an honor to welcome you to what I know will be a transformative year for our association. I'm Colby Shank, and I'm proud to serve as your ISFAA President for the 2025–2026 year.

For the past decade, I've worked in this profession, and like many of you, I've weathered the highs, the lows, and the "wait, they're changing financial aid *again?*" moments. I've learned that through challenge comes resilience—and that through community, we build strength. That's why ISFAA matters so much. It's more than an association; it's a home base for people who believe in the power of **education, opportunity, and**

Quick Links

[My Profile](#)

[NASFAA News](#)

[Employment Listings](#)

[ISFAA Store](#)

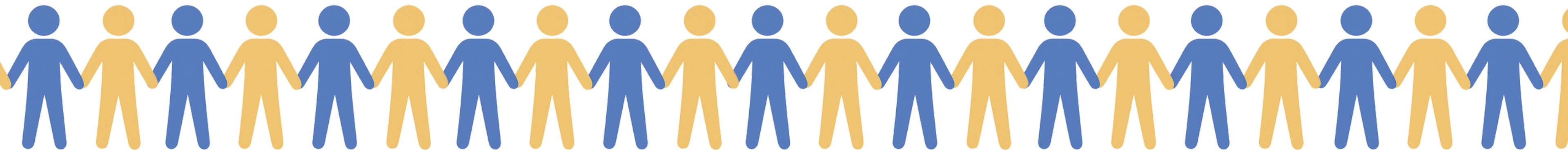
[Donate to ISFAA](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Conference Tips

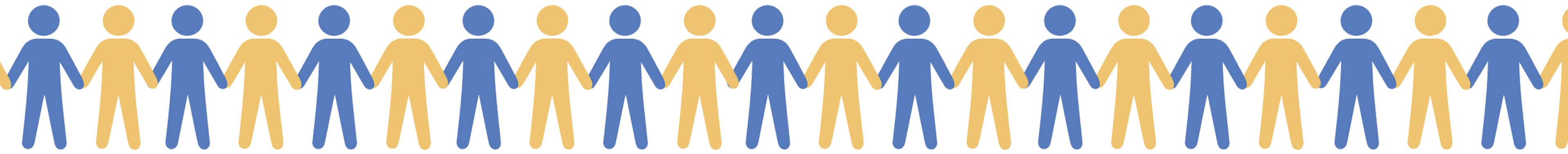
- Where do I sit during meals or sessions?
- What do I wear?
- What should I bring?
- Should I talk to the vendors?

- Special Guests
 - Keynote: Kevin McClure
 - Will Shaffner, VP Business Development & Government Relations for MOHELA
 - Heidi Carl, NASFAA National Chair, Asst. Vice Provost & Exec. Director of Financial Aid, Purdue University
 - Emily Haynam, MASFAA President & Exec. Director of Student Financial Aid, University of Missouri



Conference Tips

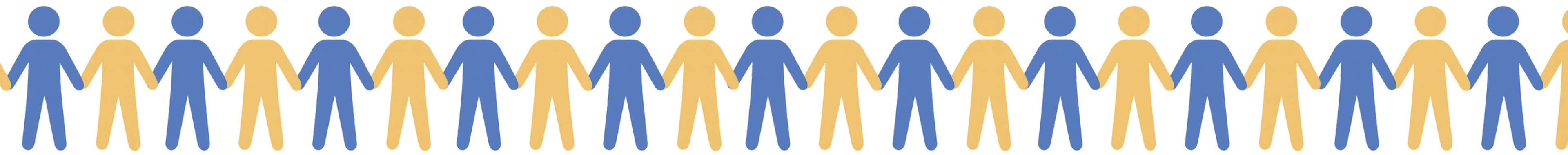
- ISFAA Business Meeting- what to expect
- If multiple people from your institution are attending, try to attend multiple sessions and share notes.
- Ask questions during sessions, breaks, and meals
- Stop by the ISFAA Executive Board table to ask questions and meet other ISFAA folks
- Meet new people & exchange business cards
- Try to sit with different people during sessions or meals



Conference Tips

Fun Events (optional)

- Silent Action
- Bingo Fundraiser
 - Food, drinks, and networking!
 - Doors open at 6pm and Bingo begins at 7pm
 - Registration is \$22
 - All proceeds benefit Foster Success
- President's Reception - after this session until 6pm



Getting Involved

Serve on a committee

Attend a training

Run for a position on the executive board

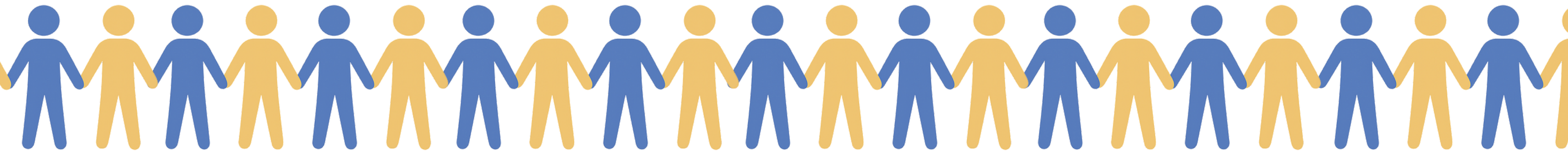


Be a trainer

Chair a committee

Present at a conference

Read the newsletters



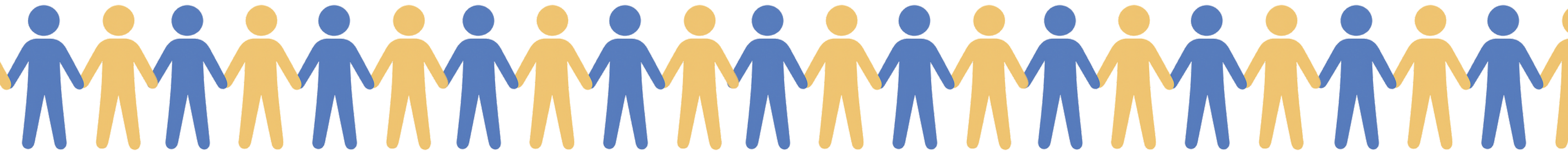
Getting involved

- Small commitment, just want to try it out:
 - Membership committee
 - Website committee
 - Newsletter committee
 - Archives committee

- Love to plan but behind the scenes:
 - Long-Range Site committee
 - Fundraising committee
 - Training committee

- Event planning, larger commitment:
 - Support Staff Workshop committee
 - College Goal Sunday committee
 - Conference Planning committee
 - Directors' Day committee

- Looking to develop your skills & make connections:
 - Leadership Development committee
 - Student Access and Impact committee
 - Financial Aid Outreach committee



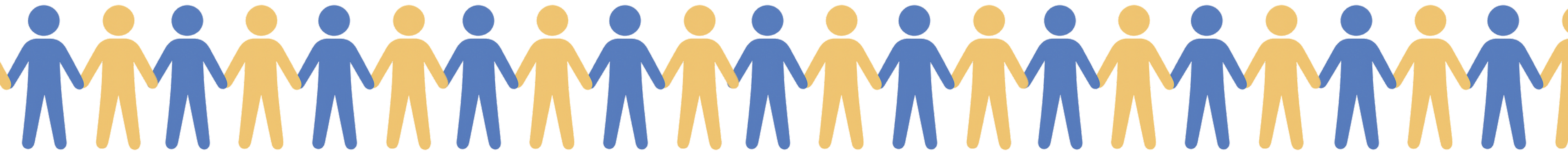
ISFAA Events

Events

- Annual Conference - March
- College Goal Sunday - November & February
- Support Staff Workshop - held in the fall

Trainings

- NASFAA Credential Trainings - held monthly
- NASFAA FAAC Exam Prep- usually a few times a year



ISFAA Gear & Kroger Rewards



Kroger Community Rewards:

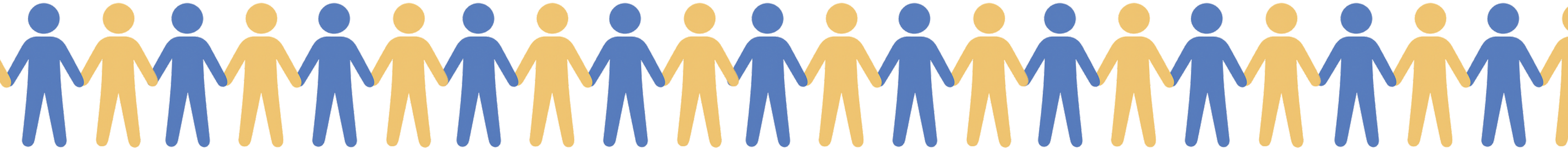
Make a donation by simply selecting ISFAA as your charity & use your Kroger Shopper's Card (or associated phone number) at check-out.

<https://www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards/>



From t-shirts to polos, bags and stickers, you now can order a product with our logo on it and support ISFAA in a whole new way.

<https://isfaa.myspreadshop.com/>



Thank you!



**Annual Conference
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**Stronger Together:
Resilience Through Community**