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# College Goal Sunday - One down, one to go!

At the first of two College Goal Sunday events this school year ISFAA volunteers helped over 400 students complete their FAFSA! More than 250 volunteers helped run the event held at 39 locations across Indiana on November 6th.

There were over 950 attendees at College Goal Sunday with 99% of those surveyed finding the event helpful. Of those respondents, 28% were 21st Century Scholars and 41% were first generation students.

The leadership committee would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make this event not only possible, but a terrific success. Your efforts to help Hoosier students complete their FAFSA and get one step closer to their educational goals is greatly appreciated.

ISFAA was once again able to offer \$5,000 in scholarships to students who attended and another \$5,000 will be available for those filing at the next event scheduled for February 26th, 2023.

Please keep an eye on College Goal Sunday's social media pages and the ISFAA Listserv as Volunteer Registration for the February event is coming soon. You can find CGS on Facebook at <a href="Facebook.com/">Facebook.com/</a> IndianaCollegeGoalSunday and on Twitter at <a href="Twitter.com/CGS">Twitter.com/CGS</a> Indiana.

Please enjoy some photos from sites across Indiana, we look forward to seeing you February 26th, 2023 at College Goal Sunday!









#### President's Perspective

Happy December, ISFAA Members!

By the time you are reading this, I am hopeful that you are close to or on a break for the holidays. I also hope some of your offices are closed so that you can get some much-needed rest after a long year.

This past year we've worked really hard to look at our organization as it is today, and what we can do to make it better; increase our membership, be a better resource for our financial aid colleagues in Indiana, increase volunteerism, and help retain our campus talent. We partnered with consultants to help us dig deep into the why and what for our organization. We do lots of things really well, and there are certainly areas for improvement. At the conference in March, we look forward to bringing you our 5-year strategic plan that outlines our goals as an organization, and how we will measure our success.

Over the last year, we had a committee heavily working on our website. We have so many new features there, please take a moment to review. My goal this year was to be more transparent with the membership, and I'm hoping the website will help me reach that goal. We started adding our executive board meeting minutes to the website. We have a great resource page for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion items. We have a page dedicated to our newsletter, and all the past publications over the years (Thanks, Matt Krieg!). And there is still more to come.

We've also had successful events this year such as the Support Staff Workshop at IUPUI, High School counselor workshops across the state, College Goal Sunday in November, multiple

trainings, held a "Make it Real" session, and soon will have bylaw updates to review. We have been working on lots of behind-the-scenes logistics for our organization (updating policies and procedures, position descriptions, etc). Although you may not have seen many of the things we've done, know that we have been making changes for the better, such as setting up a Google drive as a non-for-profit that will house all our archives as well as serve as our working folders for the organization. This will allow for members to view our archives, as well as have documents transfer from year to year so we do not lose our history. We are creating the template for how the organization will run from now on and it is all to benefit our members!

This is my last article, and I will be handing over the gavel in March at our conference. Our program and site committees for the conference have been hard at work. We have a webpage dedicated to the conference and it is live now. We will open registration in the beginning of January, but feel free to renew your membership now. At the conference, we traditionally hold a President's reception, and this year we will do the same. However, I want to try to create a place for you to be social with colleagues, and play some games (board games, card games, Giant Jenga), and eat a little food before you head home to your family. It's been a long time since we've had the chance to get together, be social, and enjoy some fun. Please consider sticking around for the reception and hang out with your friends.

Thank you for all that you do for the students, your office, and ISFAA. Have a very restful and peaceful end of the year!



Lisa Bridgewater

At the conference in March, we look forward to bringing you our 5-year strategic plan that outlines our goals as an organization, and how we will measure our success.

#### Committee Spotlight - Support Staff Workshop

The much-anticipated return of the Support Staff Workshop was a great success. On November 16th we gathered with 17 of our support staff colleagues on the IUPUI Campus to build community and develop their existing skills.

After a wonderful welcome from current president Lisa Bridgewater, Karla McLaughlin (IUPUI Office of Student Employment) and Olivia Daley (IU McKinney School of Law) gave us some riveting resume writing tips. Did you know that you might want to consider leaving your address off your resume?

Deb Gossman (College Ave) created simply the most exceptional customer service discussion that got us all thinking about how we can better deliver services to our students. Talking chat customer service, yes please!

Lunch was served with a generous side of career advice. Sara Lambie (IU Online) moderated our Career Path Panel discussion featuring an all-star lineup. Sarah Soper (Indiana University), Nathan Lohr (University of Indianapolis), and Joel Short (University of Notre Dame) shared with attendees the wisdom and experience that they gained over their career.

The Access, Equity and Diversity Committee member



Amanda Fishman (IUPUI) then shared an Implicit Bias presentation created by Danielle Hayden (Carlton College) and Alex DeLonis (Wabash College).

Throughout the workshop we talked about the support that ISFAA provides to members, but this was really brought home in a magnificent way by Vinny Vincent (Reach University) in our workshop wrap up.

The Support Staff Workshop Committee warmly thanks all our guest presenters for their time and experience. We would not have been able to provide this workshop without your help. Lastly, we thank our wonderful campus partners that provided the goodies that we were able to give to our attendees! This truly made our event one of a kind.



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College Raptor serves over 250 campuses, including 12 in Indiana.

#### Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is currently accepting applications for the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship, which provides up to \$30,000 in financial aid to aspiring teachers. This competitive scholarship provides 200 high-achieving high school and college students interested in pursuing a career in education the opportunity to earn a renewable scholarship of up to \$7,500 each year for four academic years. In exchange, students agree to teach for five years at an eligible Indiana school or *repay* the corresponding, prorated amount of the scholarship.

The scholarship is designed to encourage high performing students to remain as teachers in the state of Indiana.

Top-performing high school and college students who are planning to teach in the State of Indiana for at least five years can apply for a scholarship that is \$7,500 per year of college (up to \$30,000 total). This is a competitive scholarship, and only 200 awards are available. Students must apply by January 31, 2023, at <a href="ScholarTrack.IN.gov">ScholarTrack.IN.gov</a>.

To qualify for the scholarship, students must meet one of the following academic requirements:

- Rank in the top 20% of their high school graduating class
- Have a top 20th percentile score on the ACT (26) or SAT (1130)
- Have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale

Additionally, applicants must provide a response to a writing prompt. The 2023-24 writing prompt is: According to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, there are alarming educational trends, particularly the continued inequity of which students are prepared for and enroll in college based on demographic factors which include race and ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, and geography. What are some programs, partnerships, and



policies you could incorporate into your future classroom to eliminate inequities in college-going rates?

To continue earning the scholarship while in college, students must annually file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), earn at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA and complete at least 30 credit hours per year. Additionally, current college students who apply must be able to use the scholarship for at least two full academic years.

Unlike most state financial aid, the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship can be stacked with other tuition-based financial aid like the 21st Century scholarship or the Frank O'Bannon grant. This scholarship can be used for other qualifying education expenses beyond tuition and fees.

Former scholarship recipients are already making a difference in Indiana classrooms. Layla Abdelhak is a fifth-grade teacher at Paramount School for Excellence – Brookside after earning her degree with the scholarship. In her own words, Layla stated that she earned "the Next Generation Hoosier Educators scholarship, which provided me with enough financial aid to pay my tuition through school in order to acquire my teaching license. I happily agreed to teach in Indiana for a few years after graduation, considering it's the place I've always considered home." You can read more about Layla on Teach Indy's blog.

The Commission will review all applications and notify applicants of their scholarship status via email by March 24, 2023.



#### 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/

#### **Executive Committee Member Focus**

#### Donette Cassman



**Donette Cassman** 

#### Please tell Bits and Bytes about your current position at Sallie Mae.

I am currently the Director of Relationship Management. I cover Indiana and Illinois.

## 2. How did get your start in Financial Aid?

I started in 1991 working for the student loan division at Bank One in Lafayette. Back

then we did everything by paper! I would hand deliver thousands of paper checks to Purdue in August. The students would be standing in line waiting to sign the checks!

## 3. Tell us about your current role(s) with ISFAA and being on executive committee.

I am the Associate Member Commissioner, and I am also the chair of the long-range site committee.

## 4. You have been involved with financial aid for 31 years. Do you have a memory about a student(s) you helped that stands out in your mind that shows the good work that FA folks do?

Wow! I have so many memories. I love helping students and families with the financial aid process. I am a mentor for a young lady named Grace. She is an amazing young lady that lost her grandfather during Covid and at that point did not really know if she could go to college. Together we worked through the process, and she is now a sophomore at Purdue university and thriving!

## 5. Please tell us about any other leadership roles you've had involving fi ancial aid.

I have had the opportunity to serve and Chair several ISFAA committees. My favorite being the site committee which helps plan the conferences. I also served on the Make It Real committee. I love being on the ISFAA Board and I would encourage everyone to get involved!

## 6. You joined ISFAA in 1991. Please share your thoughts about the organization after 31 years as a member...

ISFAA is an amazing organization full of people who want the best for their students. The leadership continues to work hard to make ISFAA relevant and useful to financial aid professionals in Indiana.

#### 7. What is your favorite thing about your profession?

Helping students and families navigate the process is my favorite thing. Then to see them thrive at school and graduate is great. The people in this profession are amazing. They are truly the unsung heroes! They go above and beyond to help students on their campuses!

## 8. Do you have a least favorite thing about your profession?

This *i*s a hard question. I guess not being able to help families. Sometimes you just have to say no.

## 9. Do you have any thought or message that you would like to pass along to the other ISFAA members?

GET INVOLVED. I have made so many great lifelong friends in ISFAA. I can remember starting 31 years ago and not really knowing anyone. Now I am an old timer and would love to see young people in this state take ISFAA forward for the next 31 years!!

#### Reflections of a Delegate-at-Large

by Kristina Delbridge

I always chuckle just a little when I see this title. I know that it means "delegate appointed to represent membership" but in my mind I can't help thinking of "at large" being an escaped fugitive thwarting the law. Somehow in my mind though, I feel the enormity of making sure I'm properly representing the membership and their concerns, but I am also free to speak up without boundaries, to a certain degree anyway. Maybe, in that way, I am "at large"- able to represent members but also able to question without fear of judgement.

Throughout this past year, there have been so many wonderful conversations and out of those, tremendous action. The membership had concerns about the timing of the conference and these concerns were heard! The conference will now be in March, hopefully during a time when the weather is a bit more agreeable and offices have had a chance to fully get through spring start. Concerns over format of the presentations has been listened to as well, with the Program Committee getting fantastic inperson talent!

The strategic plan is well underway, with the feedback from the members at our last conference being heard. Yes, the leadership does listen and have conversations about your suggestions! The other Delegates-at-Large (Gina Pirtle, Melissa Smurdon, and Nicole Trice) and I as well as members of the Executive Board had a chance to view a presentation in the November meeting in regard to the plan being developed and voice suggestions in regard to the plan as well. This development of a strategic plan and its' goals and objectives which can be measured will allow us to be more intentional in our efforts through the work

done by leadership and through our committees. It will also ensure that we *are* continuing to move forward in a manner that supports our mission and adheres to our values. Lisa Bridgewater's leadership through this process has been impressive. She has a knack for leading us to consensus and keeping things on track.

By-laws were reviewed in December. (Okay, I know some of you just groaned at the thought of this but there are a few of you who live for this type of thing- admit it!) Megan Watson, Gina Pirtle, Melissa Smurdon, Nicole Trice, and I rolled our sleeves up, gathered in a room (a few by zoom) and went through the by-laws line by line. These suggestions will be reviewed by the Executive Board, further word-smithed and refined, and then ultimately voted on by active and associate members.

I can't possibly put into one article all of the discussions we had at the Executive Board meetings; the article would be far too long. However, the conversations are always dynamic. From one comment, a plethora of ideas and discussion follows. A simple topic can lead to a half-hour discussion, moving us in a direction none of us expected and sometimes, a complex topic can reach consensus easily with quick and well-thought out solutions being shared. I am humbled to be in a room with such amazing people who care so deeply and give so much of their time and attention to our organization and its' members. So, if you have an issue that you are concerned with or suggestions but don't want to raise the topic yourself, reach out to me or one of the other Delegates At Large and we will make it is addressed. Afterall, that is what we are here for – to represent you!



## Registration Opening Soon!

## 2023 ISFAA Annual Conference March 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

ISFAA invites you to join for the annual conference in-person on March 8th - 10th, 2023. The conference will be held at the Drury Inn in Carmel, IN.

The cost of the conference for ISFAA members is \$175.00.

Registration will begin on January 1, 2023

#### Make It Real - Sullivan High School, October 25, 2022

As a refresher, Make It Real! is an opportunity for high school students to learn how to make lifestyle decisions based on their income and family size. Students enter the workshop with an assigned occupation, income, marital status, and number of children. Reality sets in when they deduct taxes, find out the amount of their monthly student loan payment, and then must make ends meet on what's left. They visit stations around the room and choose "levels" of childcare, housing, food, transportation, savings, charitable giving, and entertainment. The Real lesson of this experience is that more education leads to more choices.

Sullivan High School reached out to an ISFAA member requesting Make It Real for their freshman class of 150 students. They asked for it to be held on October 25, 2022, while their upper classmen were testing. We had not officially decided to start offering in person events for Make It Real again, but the committee thought we should hold the event if we could get enough volunteers. So, we began the process of setting up the event.

Eight volunteers were provided by Sullivan High School. The students were divided up into 4 groups and 2 of the volunteers were assigned to each group. The entire group of students started the event in the auditorium. The high school volunteers made sure each of their students received a Student Budget Worksheet and an Occupation Sheet. The Occupation Sheet included the following information.

- Occupation
- Education Required
- Median Annual Salary
- · Monthly Salary
- Hourly Rate
- Marital Status
- Spouse Monthly Salary (if applicable)
- · Total Monthly Income
- Children
- Monthly Taxes
- · Monthly Net Income

The students were given a few minutes to review their temporary "life". Some of the students were excited about their monthly net income and some were not so excited. We walked through the first five stations in the auditorium



with the students and the volunteers helped the students fill out their budget worksheets. The first five stations were:

- 1.Income Taxes
- 2. Student Loan
- 3. Child Care
- 4. Savings
- 5. Housing & Utilities

Half of the students were taken to the gymnasium to visit the other 10 stations (below). ISFAA and college volunteers were at each of these stations to help students make their choices based on their family dynamic. Some of the decisions required the students to take into consideration their marital status, employment status of their spouse if they were married and the number of children they had.

- 1. Car Payment
- 2. Transportation
- 3. Health Insurance
- 4. Household Expenses
- 5. Personal Expenses
- 6. Clothing
- 7. Phone, Internet, Cable
- 8. Entertainment
- 9. Charitable Donations
- 10. Wheel of Fortune

A Financial Counseling station was also available for students when they ran out of money before they made it to every expense station. The volunteer would have a discussion with the student(s) and help them work through the choices they had. They could move money from their savings account into their checking account. Choices could be changed from the expensive category to the moderate or low cost. Spouses without an income could get a part-time job if they did not have any children; however, they would have to make sure the spouse had transportation if needed.

The other half of the students remained in the auditorium. The school had a planned activity for them to complete. Once the first group was done in the gym, they returned to the auditorium and the second group went through the 10 stations in the gym.

All student returned to the auditorium: we had a discussion on what they learned. The most popular responses were, "Kids are expensive." and "Don't have kids." Other notable responses were, "Adulting is hard." "I'm going to go home and give my mom a big hug." "I was living in a nice house; but financial counseling changed that." An ISFAA volunteer noted, "I was surprised that the students were as involved with it as they were. They seemed to really enjoy the experience." The students definitely had to make a lot of decisions that morning.

The high school guidance counselor said, "We had a great day! I think it was perfect and the kids really enjoyed it."

A BIG THANK YOU to our volunteers. This event could not have happened without their help. Our volunteers from the University of Southern Indiana traveled approximately 2 hours one way and arrived by 7:30 am (in their time zone) to help with this event. They deserve some special recognition!

Barbara Auman – Ivy Tech Community College, Terre Haute

Kathy Carr - University of Southern Indiana

Sara Ellinger - Indiana State University

Kim Heldt – Vincennes University

Michael McClure - Vincennes University

Melinda Middleton – Rose Hulman Institute of Technology

Catherine Nickens - University of Southern Indiana

Kelly Pierce - Indiana State University

Donna Simmonds - Indiana State University

Candice Sutliff - Rose Hulman Institute of Technology

Julie Wonderlin – Ivy Tech Community College, Terre Haute

Kristina Wright - Ivy Tech Community College, Terre Haute (College Connection Coach)

Jeremy Young – Ivy Tech Community College, Terre Haute (Assistant Director of K-14 Initiatives)







#### Support ISFAA by shopping at AmazonSmile

Did you know you can support ISFAA each time you shop on Amazon? ISFAA is one of the charities you can choose on AmazonSmile. ISFAA will get a donation each time you shop at no additional cost to you! In 2021, we received almost \$50 in donations from AmazonSmile to help fund ISFAA, and we are very close to that already for 2022.

You can add ISFAA as your charity by using ISFAA's direct link – <a href="https://smile.amazon.com/ch/35-1597706">https://smile.amazon.com/ch/35-1597706</a>. After you've selected ISFAA as your charity, you can shop via this link, from <a href="maile.amazon.com">smile.amazon.com</a>, or on the Amazon app with AmazonSmile activated.

#### Support Indiana Student Financial Aid Association (ISFAA).

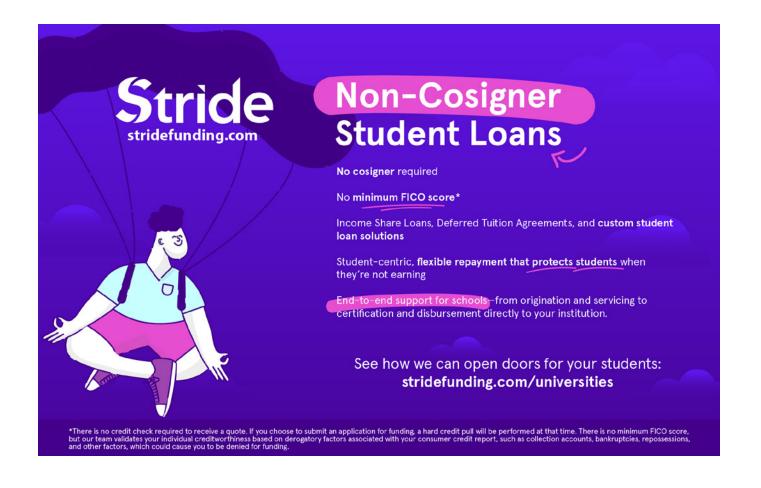
When you shop at **smile.amazon.com**, Amazon donates.

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For more information about the AmazonSmile program please visit: https://smile.amazon.com/charity/smile/about



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## Comings and Goings

#### ...and other tidbits of association news .....

#### Sue Allmon

#### Comings

Devin Ellis is the new Financial Aid Counselor and Scholarship Coordinator for IU Northwest. As if that is not enough, he is also a part-time basketball coach for the campus! Welcome Devin.

#### **Promotions**

Megan Watson, IUPUI, has accepted the position of Associate Director of Compliance within the IUPUI Office of Student Financial Services Office. Congratulations!!

#### **Deaths**

Edson Sample, former IU Bloomington financial aid director has passed away. Edson left his mark on many ISFAA members including former association President Steve Morris, who shared the following in ISFAA: Continuing a Strong Tradition written to celebrate ISFAA's 75th anniversary in 2010...

Ed Sample got me started in financial aid when he hired me in 1972 and has served as a role model of someone who believed that it was important for aid administrators to be involved in their professional activities. Ed was so intimately involved in starting both MASFAA and NASFAA and worked tirelessly at the state, regional and national level to make our profession what it is today. I know of no one who has contributed more to growing our profession as a group of dedicated individuals in the pursuit of excellence in what we do on a daily basis.

MASFAA Colleague Craig Slaughter recently shared his thoughts via the MASFAA Listserv as well...

Edson served as the MASFAA president for 1969-70 and also served as president of NASFAA (what is now called National Chair) for 1974-75. He hosted a fundamentals workshop at Indiana University for a number of years which ultimately became what we now know as Summer Institute.

Edson was well known at for his generosity and donating funds to build the iconic Sample Gates on the Indiana University Bloomington campus. As a graduate student walking past Sample Gates on the Bloomington campus in the late 90s, I had no idea at the time who Mr. Sample was and what impact his legacy would have on my future development as a professional.

Edson would come to spearhead a number of memorable initiatives including the Journal of Student Financial Aid and the NASFAA Fact Book. Edson chaired the first NASFAA Leadership & Legislative Conference, which is still held at Washington's Mayflower Hotel, and he championed the creation of NASFAA's "Federal Monitor," which could be considered an early precursor to NASFAA's Today's News.

Although we mourn his passing, his legacy to our profession will endure.



Edson Sample

#### ISFAA.org Website Tip

The website committee has been making improvements to the site and working to add new features to benefit the organization. If you read "President's Perspective" above and are looking to see some of the updates over the past year, you can take a look at these pages:

Access, Equity, and Diversity Resources

2023 ISFAA Annual Conference

ISFAA Newsletter – Bits & Bytes

**ISFAA** Awards and Award Recipients

Add ISFAA.org to your favorites or bookmarks and keep an eye open for what's next!

https://www.isfaa.org/





#### Save the Date!

The 2023 MASFAA Annual Conference

will be held at The Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel at Keystone Crossing in Indianapolis, Indiana from October 22-25.



Bits and Bytes

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Bits and Bytes is published quarterly on behalf of the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association