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2023 ISFAA Annual Conference Wrap-up

Greetings ISFAA! We hope those of you that were able to attend the conference in March learned a lot and enjoyed yourselves! The conference was a huge success and it took many people to make that happen! In case you missed the conference, here's what you missed.

There were two pre-conference trainings offered, R2T4 and Cash Management. I'm sure many of you that attended preconference have already completed the test and earned your NASFAA credential. Thank you to the ISFAA Training Committee for putting together this great opportunity for membership.

We had several vendors available to talk to attendees about the various product solutions they offer. Each vendor gave a "60 seconds of fame" presentation explaining what their company offers and how they can assist students. Did you know that many of them offer scholarship opportunities?!

As always, the Pat Wilson Scholarship Committee had a variety of items to win in the silent auction. I know several people donated items for the silent auction and bet on items as well. For the second year, they offered the 10x envelope drawing. Heather Lisco put \$20 in their envelope entry and won \$200!! Thank you to all that participated in the Pat Wilson Scholarship silent auction and 10x envelope drawing. It's a great cause and helps raise money for the Pat Wilson Scholarship.

We had several awesome speakers at conference! Alex DeLonis gave an illuminating presentation on FAFSA simplification. He helped us all laugh, instead of cry, about this immense change to the FAFSA. During lunch on Friday, we heard the Indiana Commission for Higher Education update from Josh Garrison. We also heard from Helen Faith, NASFAA chair, for an update. Craig Slaughter, MASFAA president, advised us of the ongoing MASFAA activities. It's always great to hear the perspective from those at the State, Regional, and National level.



Ready for the Challenge Prepared for Opportunity Overcoming Change

The conference theme was **Game On! Ready for the Challenge. Prepared for Opportunity. Overcoming Change.** Lisa Bridgewater's President Reception offered time to play

games and talk with colleagues. Board games, cards, and lawn games were brought in for attendees to kick back and enjoy the evening. There was a mac and cheese bar with all the toppings you could think of. It was fun filled evening for all.

2023 ISFAA ANNUAL CONFERENCE WRAP-UP --- CONTINUED

Thursday kicked off with our keynote speaker, Charity Lewis, Executive Director of Youth Empowered Indy, who talked with us about cultivating young minds through unconventional learning opportunities. We got to see some pictures and videos highlighting the many activities they use to teach youth. In lieu of speaker payment, ISFAA donated to Youth Empowered to help pay another cohort of young people to participate in their program activities. We offered several quality breakout sessions, from diversity to leadership, and even mental health, just to name a few. Stephen Hundley, consultant hired by ISFAA, lead a discussion about the ISFAA strategic plan and what that means for the future. This is something the ISFAA executive board had worked on over the course of a year. This presentation and the input from membership made for a great conversation about the path forward.

On Friday we started the day with additional breakout sessions. Hot Topics in Financial Aid allowed us to hear perspectives from some of our guests from NASFAA and MASFAA, including the President-elect of the Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. Matt Falduto. The ISFAA business meeting was conducted and awards were presented. Congratulations to all the winners: Committee of the year award - Access, Equity and Diversity Committee, New Professional Award -Russell Tragesser (Purdue University), Distinguished Service Award - Robert Sommers, and President's Award - Amber Phillips (IUPUI). During lunch, we heard the Indiana Commission for Higher Education update from Josh Garrison.

Thank you to all that completed a conference survey. We appreciate your feedback and your support. We've shared your suggestions with this year's site and conference committees for consideration. Keep your eye out for upcoming information about ISFAA's next conference. We look forward to seeing you all again at the conference in 2024!

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2023 ISFAA Annual Conference

























Another Successful College Goal Sunday Year!

The second and final College Goal Sunday for the 2022-23 school year took place February 26th at 37 locations across Indiana.

640 FAFSAs were filed at College Goal Sunday this year but some other event details may be the bigger story. 97% of survey respondents at the February event said they found the event helpful, following 99% saying the same thing in November! Another item of note is that 90% of fall attendees were first timers for CGS and that grew to 91% in the winter.

Distribution of FAFSAs had 423 filed in the Fall and 217 in the Winter. Not surprisingly the percentage of 21st Century Scholars was similar with 28% at the November CGS and 31% in February. The donation of time and expertise by amazing CGS volunteers is the only way College Goal Sunday is possible, and this was again shown with 260 people stepping up in the Fall and 216 in the Winter. As always, the leadership team couldn't be more grateful for making this FAFSA filing opportunity across the entire state happen.

The final data point of note is the percentage of firstgeneration students at the CGS events. In November this was 41% and in February this increased to 45%.

Thank very much to every volunteer and also to every counselor who posted promotional material and those who got the word out about College Goal Sunday in different ways! Indiana's largest FAFSA filing event is only possible by a large team of incredible volunteers and ISFAA absolutely had that this year!





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**.

President's Perspective

It's hard to believe that we're nearing the end of the 2022-2023 academic year. The last few months have been somewhat of a blur. I've been busier than ever, and I know we're inching closer to August every day.

After our conference wrapped in March, I headed over to Illinois for the MASFAA Exchange program. The ILASFAA conference was held in Champaign, IL on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus. They had a great turnout, and everyone was so welcoming. I learned a lot about the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) and the state grant programs that are offered. I networked with schools that are working through some of the same challenges that we are all facing as we think about how we are going to calculate Cost of Attendance and prepare for the FAFSA Simplification changes. I also got to hear about best practices for building a P&P manual. The agenda for the conference was great and offered a little something for everyone.

In April & May, our Long-Range Site committee was hard at work finding potential new conference locations for ISFAA. I do want to take a moment to thank the Long-Range Site Committee for their time and efforts in soliciting proposals and bringing it back to the board for consideration. It is important to recognize that the board and conference committees took time to review the conference feedback that was provided. The survey responses indicated that the Drury was starting to feel small and that our association may have outgrown the space. This feedback was at the center of our board discussions when we considered all proposals for next year's conference location. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey and provide feedback. I am hopeful that I will be able to share the date and location of our upcoming conference with you soon as we are in the final stages of signing a contract.

In the meantime, our conference site and program committees are busy planning our upcoming conference. You may have seen a link sent out recently to solicit ideas from membership on different program session topics. If there is something you'd like to see on the agenda next year please take a moment and share your thoughts, even if you're not able to volunteer as a presenter. If you'd like to submit a conference session proposal for next year you can do so online at <u>https://</u> forms.gle/AuJHYADUxdWsPY2x9.

Next up, our archives committee has been hard at work over the last year getting ISFAA set up to use the google suite. The board approved this change last year after carefully reviewing proposals from the archive committee. The Google Suite is free to our organization but provides us with tools that will help us work more effectively, improve communication to our membership, and provide us with cost savings going forward. As a result of implementing the Google Suite we have been able to create several key email addresses that we would like to share with membership. If you have



Megan Watson

If there is something you'd like to see on the agenda next year please take a moment and share your thoughts.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE --- CONTINUED

questions, thoughts, concerns please feel free to utilize the emails below and reach out.

<u>Website@isfaa.org</u> – Routes to the website/electronic communications committee.

president@isfaa.org - Routes to the current ISFAA President.

treasurer@isfaa.org – Routes to the current ISFAA Treasurer. Will be able to answer questions about invoices and reimbursements/payments.

training@isfaa.org – Routes to the current training committee.

<u>gov.relations@isfaa.org</u> – Routes to the governmental relations committee. Please feel free to send questions, ideas, thoughts.

As we head into a busy summer season, I hope that everyone will take time for themselves to rest, recharge, and reflect on the importance of our work. Across the state of Indiana thousands of students will start school this semester and have access to higher education because of the work that we do. Keep up the great work ISFAA, and a huge thank you to all of our volunteers!



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Visit www.studentconnections.com or email contact@studentconnections.com to learn more about how you can help your students on their path to success.



Executive Committee Member Focus

Ron Herrell



Ron Herrell

1. Please tell Bits and Bytes about your current position at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

I have been the Director of Financial Aid at Purdue University Fort Wayne since end of November 2021. I oversee a staff of eleven, all in total have a combined over 100 years of financial aid experience in our office. With one team member having 30

plus years' experience to some staff members having less than one year. We serve a student body of approximately 7,000 students.

2. How did get your start in Financial Aid?

In 2006 I was getting ready to graduate from Brown Mackie College Fort Wayne with my Associate Degree in Business Management. I received a phone call from the Career Services Office asking if I wanted them to submit my resume to financial aid who had an opening for an officer role. I said yes, the day before commencement I had my second interview. One month later I started with Brown Mackie and worked there for almost eight years from: financial aid officer, senior financial aid officer, associate director, director and financial area director (where I oversaw four campuses). I have always told my employees, no one really decides they want to work in financial aid, but once you have been in financial aid more than two years, you do not leave.

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

I currently serve as the Training and Development Commissioner over the conference site, conference program, long range site, training, leadership symposium and access, equity and diversity committees.

4. You have been involved with financial aid for 17 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?

Yes, I had one mother that was so terrified about her son going away to college. She called the office nearly everyday for the entire summer. Maybe once she had a question actually pertaining to financial aid. She was just so happy that someone took the time to listen to her worries, even though they were not related to our area that every year she would send the office cards for each holiday. We would see her name come up on caller ID and it no longer became answering the phone like normal, we would just answer well hello Mrs. D how is Ben doing? Do you have questions, or just checking in? I love working in an industry, where we can earn people's trust that much. Of course, we have to be careful, because we can lose it just as fast.

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

I have been Director of Financial Aid at four separate Institutions: a proprietary, two-year public, four-year private, and four-year public. I have also been an area director where I served as director for four campuses two in Indiana Fort Wayne and Indianapolis but also Miami, Florida and Atlanta, Georgia. I was also Bi-Regional Director of Financial Aid where I oversaw seven campuses at once.

6. You joined ISFAA in 2010. Please share your thoughts about the organization after 15 years as a member...

Getting involved was one of the best decisions of my career. I have grown so much as a leader because of my time, and relationships in ISFAA. I wouldn't be where I am at in my career without those in ISFAA mentoring and cheering me on. I left Indiana for two years, and I felt like a family member welcomed back when I came back to Indiana after those two years.

7. What is your favorite thing about your profession?

Something that has stuck with me ever since I heard Ben Burton say it in a meeting once. I have used this ever since when talking to people about working in financial aid. We help students finance their dreams. When students come to college to get their degree many of them have a dream of what they are going to do with that degree. We help finance those dreams, imagine what boundaries our students could go out and break after they earn their degree and we got to play a small role, how cool is that?

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

Financial aid being used as a political tool. Don't mess with our students' futures to get re-elected.

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

Getting involved isn't just a benefit for you, it benefits the industry. Without volunteers, conferences, training, etc. do not happen. That is vital in years like this one coming up with the huge financial aid changes we have coming. You are not only building your resume and connections; you are helping to make financial aid better for those who are not involved.



A word from 2023 ISFAA Conference Scholarship Attendee Devin Ellis...



Devin Ellis

A word from 2023 ISFAA Conference Scholarship Attendee Devin Ellis...

I was fortunate enough to win a scholarship to attend my first annual ISFAA conference. The 3-day experience was great and fulfilling for a person like me who has only one year of financial aid experience. The conference was well planned each day from breakout sessions to the marketplace area, and the food provided.

I had the opportunity to meet Alex Delonis prior to the start of the conference. Alex is a humble/ genuine person who shared his background story on how he has worked to get to the position he is in today. The first day of the conference I attended the new member session which I found beneficial. I learned so much listening to the seasoned presenters Alex Delonis, Sarah Owen, Stan Werne, and Heather Lisco. The second day I attended Cultivating Young Minds Through Unconventional Learning Opportunities by Charity Hurst, Connecting with Students by Matt Falduto, and Diversity – Implicit Bias by Craig Slaughter which were all very informative. On the last day of the conference, I attended Gina Pirtle's presentation on Funding training, Audit findings vs Training cost.

The conference was eye opening experience to the world of financial aid. I enjoyed meeting and networking with Financial Aid professionals and becoming more knowledgeable in many areas. I look forward to attending more ISFAA events and conferences with the opportunity to learn and grow in the financial aid profession so I can make an impact on all future students.

Devin Ellis

Indiana University Northwest

ISFAA.org Website Tip

The <u>ISFAA.org</u> website has been updated to show the new Executive Committee as well as information on the chairs for ISFAA's various committees. Simply visit: <u>https://isfaa.memberclicks.net/standing-committees</u> and use the Member Directory for contact info.



Support ISFAA and buy a Shirt!

Thank you for being a member of ISFAA. We are so excited to share the news that we've recently partnered with Spreadshop to bring ISFAA products into the world. 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.

Spreadshop is a web-based shop that allows organizations to sell products with our logo on it without having to buy in bulk. You can order a shirt or any product in any style and color they have, and they will add the ISFAA logo. Spreadshop will create the product and ship it directly to you. In turn, our organization makes a small profit on anything we sell.

Please visit our shop today to check it out! isfaa.myspreadshop.com



MASFAA Resources that may interest you...

MASFAA'S Equality Talk Book Club - https://masfaaweb.org/equality-talk-book-club

MASFAA Matters Webinars - https://masfaaweb.org/Webinars



Time to Put on Your Training Caps

The Training Committee is hard at work planning the 2023-24 training cycle! With many new and exciting events in the works, this is sure to be a year to remember!

Highlights

- 10 that's right 10 NASFAA credentials purchased for 2023-24
 - o Application Process
 - o Campus-Based Programs
 - o Consumer Information
 - o Cost of Attendance
 - o Federal Pell Grant and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants
 - o Packaging and Aid Notification
 - o Professional Judgment
 - o Satisfactory Academic Progress
 - o Student Eligibility
 - o Verification
- A two-part training series Boot Camp for members to earn their NASFAA credentials
- Monthly FREE online training events, spanning a wide range of professional development topics

- Launch of our NEW email account (<u>training@isfaa.org</u>)! Have a question for the Training Committee? Shoot us an email!
- And so much more!

As we continue to solidify our plans, the Training Committee welcomes feedback from members in hopes to providing you with the best training experiences possible!

Get to Know the ISFSAA Training Committee

Nicole Trice, Co-chair (Ivy Tech Community College) Vinny Vincent-Dunn, Co-chair (Reach University and Franklin College) Kristin Hand (Marian University) Heather Lisco (Caris College) Gina Pirtle (IU – Northwest) Paul Friebus (Ivy Tech Community College) Sherri Shockey (Manchester University) Vickie Montgomery (Ivy Tech Community College) Courtney Knauff (IU - Indianapolis)

NASFAA - Off the Cuff Podcast

ISFAA's very own Alex DeLonis was featured as a guest on the NASFAA Off the Cuff podcast. Hear more about Alex's journey from first-generation college student to director of Financial Aid at <u>https://www.nasfaa.org/off_the_cuff_ep258.</u>



Justin Draeger President and CEO, NASFAA



Alex DeLonis, Director of Financial Aid at Wabash College



Maria Carrasco Reporter



Money Smart Tips

by Nina Loesch, Ivy Tech Community College - Columbus



Money, money, money! We all need it but how we deal with it is important. Money can be thought of as a tool. A tool is something that we use to carry out a certain function. We need money to live our daily lives! Being smart with our money and learning to be content with what we have, can lead to more peace and less anxiety!

The key to remember is to take it one day at a time and work with a financial advisor if you can. Always strive to save when you can but also take time to enjoy the little things each day! Knowledge is power so read on topics that you don't understand.

"Once you start to automate savings and you love savings as much as you love spending ... you will not be living paycheck to paycheck." Suze Orman - Personal Finance Expert

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Won't impact credit score to request additional funds	\checkmark	×	X
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Thank you College Goal Sunday Volunteers

Abby Rotzien Aleaha Ziola Alex Williams Alexandra Szymanski Alexiz Gil Allana Preston Allison Strange Amanda Fishman Amanda Kraatz Amber Blakeman Amira Shabazz Ana Carmona Anahi Santos Angelina McDonald Angie Gleason Angie Snapp Ann Kreicker Annette Hoopingarner Anuar Velazquez Ashlyn Barb Auman Ben Westrick Bennett Gallivan **Berenice** Tenorio **Beth Kemper** Bill Auman **Brandon Kuntz** Briana Trisler Brianna Roth Brittany Perri **Brittney Chesher Caleb Fendrich** Calvin Hopple Cammi Lidgard **Candice Sutliff Caroline Jones** Carolyn Weaver Catherine Woodard Cathy Nickens

Thank you to our February 2023 College Goal Sunday Volunteers! We hope to see you again at our next event!













Cathy R Dedmon Chanda Rodski **Charlette Sauders** Charmaine O'Quinn Chelsea Moorer **Chelsi Stallings** Chloe Clayborn Chris Enstrom **Chris Fresch** Chris Kaser Christa Clark Christa Stultz Christy Cox **Christy Tollett** Cindi Sabo Claire Nagel Claudia Saenz **Clay Adams Courtlynd Scott** Courtney Althoff Cyndi Lang Cynthia Perez Daneijah **Danielle Runda** Danny Enciso Dara Bishop **Darrin Silvers Datreena Anthony** David Reseigh **Dawn Lawless Debbie Harding Deborah Woods Dennis Tedrow Desmond Delgado Devin Ellis Dimyah Baxter** Donette Cassman **Donna Bevington Donny Mimms**

Thank you College Goal Sunday Volunteers

Dr. Dorothy Frink Dr. V. Jones Elaine C Yednak Elaine Parrish Emily Hoover **Emily Tingle** Emily Tran Erick Martinez Erin Addington Felix Torres Fred Jackson Gabrielle Madison Gary Carter Gayle O'Connor Gina Pirtle Gloria Keith Gregory Thornburg Gwen Tucker Heather Hunt-Gonzalez Holly Barnes Ian Line Isabelle May Jacqueline Kennedy-Fletcher Jakob Breunig Jarret Whitehead Jasmin Lea Williamson Jasmin Quinn Jasmine Asumang Jazmine Clifton Jeffrev Scott Jelani Cotton Jenell Boyd Jenell Boyd Jennifer L Diaz Jenny Hallard Jessica Underwood Jessica Venice Jhordan Lee Joanna Riney













Joanna Rodriguez Joel Short Johnetta Thompson Jordan Niemeier Joseph Cress Josette Pyke Josh McGuire Joshua Gunder Jovanny Hernandez Julie Wade Julie Wonderlin Justin Robinson Kahra Karen Bautista Karen Pierce Kathrine Kurosky Kathy Carr Kathy Hollander Kayleigh L Francis Keith Chezem Kelly Hudson Kelsey Flynn Kim Gentry Kim Wilhelm Kimberly SimsFagan **Kirsten Reynolds** Kris Kristen Japundza Kristyn Sleeseman Kvle Bell Lanee Stitt Lea Dunbar Leah Allman Lisa Bridgewater Liz Francis Liz Nicodemus Lynn Roberson Madisyn Muller Marcy Hopple

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Thank you College Goal Sunday Volunteers

Maria Gutierrez Maria Rios Marie Wilhite Mark Frank Marsha Baker Martina Stokes Marty Case Mary Champion Mary King Mary Knudsen Mary Nucciarone Matt Jewell Matt Wimmer Matthew Biergans Matthew Krieg McKalaih Mitchell Megan Rains Melissa Dwight Melissa Pace Melissa Pruitt Melissa Rangel Meredith Dittfield Mia Steele **Michael Kreicker** Michael W. McClure Michelle Ashcraft **Michelle Short** Monique Ware Morgan Kirchgessner Nancy Heinrich Nancy Thompson Nate Bickel Nickie Roberts Nicole D Vaughn Niki Hockenberry Nina Oasvs Olamide Gbemisola Olga Povolotska







Patt McCafferty Paul Friebus Promise Jefferson **Rachel McHenry Rachel Meyer** Reagan Ayala **ReAnne May** Rebecca Lampa **Ricky Scott Robert Sommers Russell Tragesser** Samantha Garcia Sandy Almendares Monge Sara Ellinger Sara Monday

Sarah Fawcett Sarah Wandless Sean Riley Shawnie Johnson Shederick Whipple Sierra Bell Sophia Vaughn Stacey Hancock-Dollahan Stan Werne Stanley Law Stephanie Vondersaar Sue Allmon Susan Conrad Susan Larson Susan Mayberry Tammy Keenan Tammy Robbins Tammy Runyan Tanika House Taniyah Gayden **Taylor Davis-Redman** Tene Jones Terri Vasquez Thomas Applegate Tonya Adams Tracy Miller **Tressie Dunbar Tsianina McCain** Valeria Alvarez Vicki Strack Vickie Montgomery Virginia Washington William Wozniak **Yolanda Solis Yvonne Young** Zach Catron Zach Reel Zach Snider Zachary Cullum



Comings and Goings

...and other tidbits of association news

Sue Allmon

Comings

From Patt McCafferty: Ivy Tech Community College -Bloomington is pleased to announce **Gwen Tucker** as a new Assistant Director in their office. Gwen's primary responsibility will be to oversee the awarding of Foundation Scholarships. We are excited to have her join the Bloomington's R2T-Fabulous team!!!

Kaleb Cook has joined the financial aid team at Taylor University as the new Financial Aid Advisor replacing Cindy Richardson (see promotions!)

Transitions

Robert Sommers transitioned from INvestEd's team to the Taylor University financial aid team on April 3rd to try and fill the shoes left by Tim Nace's retirement.

Promotions

Paul Friebus has been promoted from Lead Assistant Director of Financial Aid at the Ivy Tech Indianapolis campus to Director of Financial Aid Training and Compliance at Ivy Tech within the systems office. Congratulations Paul!

Congratulations to **Cindy Richardson** who has changed her position in the Taylor University Financial Aid Office from Financial Aid Advisor to Financial Aid Counselor overseeing many of the university's loan processes.

Retirements

We wish to send happy thoughts and well wishes to **Cyndi Lang**, IU South Bend who officially retired from the university, College Goal Sunday, and financial aid on July 1, 2023

After 32 years in financial aid at Taylor University **Tim Nace** retired on May 31st to spend time with his wife, kids and especially the grandkids! The Taylor financial aid team is thankful for Tim's leadership, insight, and service as we helped families put together their college funding puzzle.

Good News Announcements

Shout out and congratulations to **Melinda Middleton**, **Rose Hulman College** on her election as Vice President for MASFAA!

Shout out and congratulations to Lisa Bridgewater, **IUPUI**, on her election as Delegate-at-Large for MAFAA!



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