

**WASFAA**

*Highlights*

Western Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators



WASFAA Highlights is an electronic news update provided by the WASFAA President for the benefit of the WASFAA membership. The electronic publication will contain informational items pertaining to WASFAA activities and newsworthy items of interest to the WASFAA community. Past issues are archived on the WASFAA website at <http://www.wasfaa.org>. Additional information regarding any given issue may be obtained by emailing the current WASFAA President, Kay W. Soltis, [soltiskw@plu.edu](mailto:soltiskw@plu.edu)

## **WASFAA Highlights January, 2012 – (Vol.7, No 7)**

Happy 2012!

I hope you have all started the year with a great deal of excitement and optimism. 2012 will definitely be a year of “change” as we move closer to the Presidential election. Keeping all this in balance will be quite a feat but I am optimistic. I wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Speaking of balance reminds me that the Conference committee is hard at work organizing our annual conference. The theme of the conference this year is The Yin and Yang of Financial Aid – Reaching Harmony through WASFAA. A call for conference proposals went out from Program Committee Co-chairs Leslie Limper ([limper@reed.edu](mailto:limper@reed.edu)) and David Tolman ([dtolman@boisestate.edu](mailto:dtolman@boisestate.edu)) they are looking for sessions that focus on finding balance and harmony through best practices in financial aid administration. Share what you know!

Correction: Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute will be held **June 3-8, 2012** at Occidental College in Glendale, CA. My apologies for the incorrect date previously advertised. Save the date to attend this outstanding training opportunity for new financial aid administrators or to get a refresher. You’ll be glad you participated.

Past President Sandi Guidry is completing the process for our election results, stay tuned for the announcement of our newly elected officers. Then I hope you will join Sandi and me in congratulating our new WASFAA leaders.

It is also time for us to recognize WASFAA members who have made outstanding contributions to the financial aid profession, our state association and to WASFAA. The WASFAA Awards Committee, chaired by Brenna Conlin will accept nominations now until the February 4 deadline. The award criteria for nominations as well as the Award Nomination form may be located on the WASFAA website [http://www.wasfaa.org/docs/forms/awards\\_nom.html](http://www.wasfaa.org/docs/forms/awards_nom.html). Help us acknowledge these outstanding colleagues who help make WASFAA a wonderful professional organization.

News from NASFAA

[A provision in the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 \(HEOA\)](#) requires the Department to develop recommendations to improve award letters and a model award letter based on those recommendations.

To help this effort, NASFAA formed a [task force on award notification and consumer information](#). The task force is currently seeking input from financial aid offices through a [15-minute survey](#). The task force will use input from this survey to guide their discussions and recommendations. Please take the time to provide this much needed data.

NASFAA also recently established the Reauthorization Taskforce responsible for producing a set of proposals for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. WASFAA is well represented on the taskforce by the following members:

Georgette DeVeres, Claremont McKenna College

Patricia Hurley, Glendale Community College

Kay Soltis, Pacific Lutheran University

It's only January but I realize April 22-24 is just a few short months away and the 2012 WASFAA Conference will be here. I hope you will all be able to join me. I went to Portland just after Christmas and next month I'll highlight my travels, information I hope you will find helpful especially if you have never been to Portland, Oregon.

We are all very busy as we being a new term and prepare for the 2012-13 awarding year. All my best to you, stay warm, healthy and try not to work too hard.

*Kay*

Kay W. Soltis

WASFAA 2011-12 President