



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 for the Month of July 2011 - (Vol. 7, No. 3)**

July is traditionally a hot month but one usually relates “hot” to weather not what transpired in Congress and the White House. Heated debates appeared to be the norm. Level heads prevailed and Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the Budget Control Act of 2011 just hours before the U.S. defaulted on its debt. The bill contained three main provisions related to student aid:

- Additional mandatory funding for the PELL Grant program for fiscal years 2012 and 2013
- Elimination of the in-school loan interest subsidy for graduate and professional students
- Elimination of Direct Loan repayment incentives

The bill will reduce the nation’s debt through a two-stage process, while simultaneously raising the debt limit so that the U.S. does not default on its current obligations.

Be sure to thank Congressional representatives you contacted to assist us in protecting PELL Grants. We will need their support in the future to support SEOG, Federal Work Study and in-school interest subsidies. We hope the heat wave has passed, but I suspect the heated debates will continue as Congress works on the next rounds of cuts. It’s going to be a long and busy year as we share our message in creative ways to communicate the need to preserve financial aid to help students attend and persist in postsecondary education. President Obama continues to state funding financial assistance for college students as a priority, and we want to support that priority. We will need to keep this message front and center especially as there are so many competing needs for limited dollars.

Congratulations to Jim White who was recognized at the recent NASFAA Annual Conference in Boston, MA with a NASFAA State and Regional Leadership Award. These awards are presented to one individual in each region who exhibits high integrity and character, who has shown creative leadership and has inspired and encouraged others to actively participate in professional development, who has made outstanding contributions at the regional and state levels over a sustained period of time, and who supports the goals and objectives of NASFAA. The awards are announced but actually presented to the recipient at the regional conference. We will honor Jim as the recipient of this year’s award at our conference in April, 2011. Please join in congratulating Jim!

Speaking of the our conference, please mark your calendars and plan to attend, WASFAA Annual Conference April 22 -24, 2012, at the Benson Hotel in the heart of downtown Portland, Oregon. Already the committee is working on interest sessions that will inspire and excite you. We know you will not want to miss the

opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, attend sessions offered by the Department of Education. We have already put in a request for a NASFAA track that was well received this past year in Hawaii. Don't miss out— plan to attend. We'll be looking for you.

Laura Hughes and the faculty for the Jerry R. Sims Management and Leadership Institute (MLI) are hard at work on setting up the website for registration. You will recall I mentioned previously that MLI is moving back to the November time frame. MLI will be in beautiful Lake Tahoe, Nevada, at Harvey's Resort November 8 – 10, 2011. Save those dates for yourself or as an excellent way to mentor a colleague for upper management. Obtain great training in subject matter that will help to lead or manage an office and/or staff.

Applause, applause to the Newsletter committee, chaired by Judy Saling and her staff on a fabulous summer issue packed with great articles and tidbits from around the WASFAA region!

Watch for further news from the Federal Issues Committee as things continue to happen in Congress and the Department of Education. Do you have your Net Price Calculator up? October will be here before you know it.

Ok that's enough for now enjoy what's left of summer. You all work hard and need to rest and recharge for the beginning of school. Fall will be upon on us soon.

Kay W. Soltis  
WASFAA 2011-12 President