



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, Mindy Bergeron, at bergeron@jfk.edu.

WASFAA Highlights for the Month of March 2010 - (Vol. 5, No. 7)

- Times have changed and continue to change. We have to embrace new ways of doing business. We don't just work for our respective schools - but also for students, parents, alumni, colleagues and governments. It is more critical than ever to receive good training and support as we all move forward in our profession. The 2010 WASFAA Conference will provide the training and support as we all move forward in our profession.

The 2010 WASFAA Conference will provide the training and reflection needed to take us all into the next decade. **The annual WASFAA Conference is only weeks away and is being held at the Coeur d' Alene Lodge in Idaho from April 18 to 20, 2010.** There are over 50 proposed interest sessions and dynamic key note speakers scheduled. Ron Lee, from USA Funds, put the program together so you know it's going to be chockfull of current information. Below are some "highlights" from the conference program.

- Pell Potpourri - Two Pell's in a Year
- Private Education Loans: Alternative Resources in Today's Economy
- R2T4 Overview
- Transitioning to Direct Lending
- Ten Best Practices for Non-Traditional and Online Student Support Services
- Direct Loan Processing - Using COD
- Direct Loan Funding and Cash Management
- The Role of Financial Aid in Student Retention Efforts
- Best Practices: Policies and Procedures, Ethics on Campus

Terry Everson, a noted and familiar Leadership and Organizational Development Consultant and financial aid favorite, will start off the conference with some of his high-energy, inspirational and timely tips for being a leader in today's ever-changing environment. And if this isn't enough, come hear **Jeff Baker**, the Director of the Policy Liaison and Implementation Staff, from FSA/USDE, give his up-to-the-minute federal update. Jeff will also be presenting the "Tale of Two Pell's" or "Two Pell's in a Year" interest sessions. I'm already writing down my questions for him. **Joan Crissman**, NASFAA's Interim President and CEO as well as **Dr. Barry Simmons**, the NASFAA Chair, will also be there to give us the latest news from Capitol Hill as well as from NASFAA.

Don't wait, don't walk, *run* - register now at www.wasfaa.org and take the time to receive all of this timely training and experience **Reflections on Student Success**.

- Training, training and more training. WASFAA's annual week-long summer basic-training event, the **Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute (SDBSI)**, is on the horizon. It is scheduled for June 6 through 11, 2010 at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ. The fees are - Single room \$695 per person; Double Room \$595 per person: and Commuters \$495 per person. These fees include program costs, room and meals. The chair of this event, Jack Edwards, is a long-time SDBSI instructor who is from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

There is still time to apply for and complete a scholarship application to attend the SDBS Institute. Go to http://www.wasfaa.org/docs/forms/Scholarship_app_10.html and apply now!! Deadline is Monday, April 5.

- Stay tuned....WASFAA 2010 Spring training is coming. I promise!
- Speaking of training, Debra Byrne, from the US Department of Education's Federal Student Aid (FSA) unit, is currently surveying schools around our nation for their preference in locations and dates for **future FSA conferences**. She's not making promises but she is asking for some input from the schools. Would you like to see two FSA conferences, one on the East Coast and one on the West Coast? Would you like several smaller conferences around the US? What time of year is best to be out of the office for training? You can email your recommendations to Debra at Debra.Byrne@ed.gov.

Please make your voice heard on this issue if you have a preference.

- The Communications & Electronic Services Committee will be sending out a short survey soon to ask you about the WASFAA website - what you like, dislike, would like to see, etc. Please take the time to complete the survey and help us make improvements to the website for you, our members!!
- Grace Smith, the 2009-10 WASFAA Membership Chair, recently submitted a report to the WASFAA Executive Council showing various breakdowns of the **current WASFAA membership**. There are currently 539 members.
- The breakdown of **membership by state** is: Alaska - 54; American Samoa - 2; Arizona - 75; California - 135; Federated States of Micronesia - 0; Guam - 3; Hawaii - 37; Idaho - 34; Marshall Islands - 2; Nevada - 31; Oregon - 55; Washington - 72; and, Out of Region - 39.

The breakdown of **membership by Institution** is: Public (2-Year) 119; Public (4-Year) - 127; Independent (2-Year); Independent (4-Year) 58; Proprietary (Business School) - 5; Proprietary (Technical/Trade) 39; Health-Related/Nursing - 4; Graduate/Professional - 15; Consultant - 2; Government Agency - 3; Guaranty Agency - 62; Lender - 17; Servicer - 4; Not Specified - 46 and Other - 38.

- Thank you to all the members who provided award nominations. We appreciate your participation and look forward to recognizing some of our dedicated volunteers at the upcoming conference.
- My year as WASFAA president is over in a few weeks. As everything in life goes as you get older, the time whizzed by at breakneck speed. People have been asking me if I'm glad it's almost over. I honestly say that I'm almost sad it is coming to an end. This has been one of the best experiences in my 31-year professional financial aid career. I have met and worked with the most wonderful people and have learned a lot about the various states and their issues. Besides attending the state conferences, I also attended several regional association executive council meetings and conferences (RMASFAA and SWASFAA). And last but not least, as the WASFAA president, I had the opportunity to sit and work with the NASFAA Board of Directors. I have flown more in the past six months than I have in my lifetime. If you have the chance I highly recommend volunteering for WASFAA whether it's being a member on a committee or as an elected officer.

- Sandi Guidry, the 2010-11 WASFAA president-elect takes over at the end of our conference in a few weeks. Sandi had her WASFAA Transition/Strategic Planning meeting for 2010-11 several weeks ago with her new, and some not so new, board members.
- And as I write this, Direct Lending has been approved by Congress and signed by President Obama. As of July 1, 2010, another new chapter in most of our lives begins. Who says financial aid is boring?

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