

President's Highlights- April

I can't believe we're entering the last month of my President year. It went so fast! Since I feel like I spent most of the year on planes or at the airport, I know that everything that was accomplished over the last few months is due to great volunteers. I couldn't have asked for a better team and I'm so proud of everyone that served this year. I look forward to serving in a different way next year, filling ballots for election and leading the next strategic plan creation. I would never give up this experience and hope to encourage many others to be President. I learned a lot about financial aid, leadership and teamwork, but the most significant things I learned were personal reflections. I tested my strengths and strengthened my weaknesses, so I hope I'll be a better leader both personally and professionally because of this role.

March was a busy month! I attended the NASFAA Board Meeting in Washington DC, where we heard updates about the exciting new Certified Financial Aid Administrator program, the conference, as well as federal and state legislation. From the NASFAA offices, I headed straight to the PacFAA conference in Kapolei, HI. Here, I partnered with WASFAA's Training Chair, Anthony Morrone, to offer a session on my favorite topic: Need Analysis! I love EFC hand calculations!

Other than the week of traveling (35 hours on planes...), WASFAA had exciting things this month:

- Registration for the Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute at Gonzaga University opened. With a basic, intermediate and advanced track, there will be something for everyone's experience level. I hope to see you in Spokane in June!

- The Training Committee hosted a very popular webcast with a Department of Education presentation on Adds, Drops & Withdrawals. We'll see this session again at the conference in a few weeks.

- The Conference Committee continued work on finalizing a program full of valuable sessions and fun activities. They are currently working on the 50th anniversary party- stayed tuned for more information!

- Members of Executive Council met and discussed some changes to our Policy & Procedures Manual. While this may not sound exciting to you, the changes allow for additional funds to be spend on special initiatives for members over the next few years.

Lastly, I would like to highlight the work of state association volunteers and presidents this month. I have been lucky enough to attend 7 state conferences over the last year. All of which have had an unique focus and format. I have learned something at each conference! It takes a lot of work to find a venue, organize sessions, pick menus and speak in front of people. Thank you to all volunteers that help make your state conferences such a valuable experience. I'll add a special thank you to the state presidents that made me feel so welcome at each of your events.

Ashley Monroe

WASFAA President

2018-2019