

PacFAA Conference Session Information

Keynote: Staying in Love with Financial Aid Even When It's Hard (And It's Usually Hard)

Presenter: Helen Faith, Director of Student Financial Aid at University of Wisconsin-Madison.
NASFAA Chair

Financial aid isn't easy work—the past several years have proven incredibly challenging, and the trajectory of rapid change will accelerate in coming years as we implement FAFSA Simplification, support borrowers as they return to repayment after three years on pause, respond to future proposed Gainful Employment rules, and the list goes on. If you're overwhelmed and even discouraged, that's hardly surprising—so how can we keep our hearts in this work through it all? Join this session to reconnect with the reasons we became financial aid professionals, be reminded of the tremendous impact we have, and share strategies to manage the stress of constant change and continue to be re-inspired even in the most difficult moments.

Session Title: Administering Disbursements

Presenter: Virginia Hagins, Training Officer, Federal Student Aid, U.S. Dept. of Education

Let's explore the flexibilities and restrictions in play when handling Title IV funds. In this session, we will discuss various requirements of disbursing Title IV funds, including the true definition of a disbursement, notification and timing of disbursements, and how COD and G5 communicate so schools may receive funding. Then we will discuss the different types of disbursements in detail, and complete scenarios together to apply our knowledge.

Session Title: Fraud and Abuse in Federal Education Programs

Presenter: Ivan C. Anthony and Brian Boyer, Special Agents, U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Inspector General

The objective of our session is to familiarize the audience with the background of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Inspector General and our mission. We will go over how FSA and the OIG coordinate together. We will discuss sources of allegations and fraud indicators. Furthermore, we will explain why and how Title IV institutions are targets for criminals along with case examples. How to detect and prevent distance education fraud will be discussed. We will discuss criminal and civil liability as well. Lastly, we will inform the audience how to report fraud to the OIG.

Session Title: Recognizing and Addressing Bias in the Student Aid Experience: A Research-Practice Conversation

Presenter: Helen Faith, Director of Student Financial Aid at University of Wisconsin-Madison.
NASFAA Chair

Financial aid administrators are committed to providing all students with the opportunity to improve their lives with education through access to an affordable education. We navigate through a sea of federal and state laws, regulations, and regulatory guidance to accomplish this important work, and we do so as fairly and equitably as we can. Drawing on financial aid research findings and NASFAA's Diversity Toolkit, this session will help uncover ways that bias exists in the financial aid system and processes, while providing

opportunities to engage in discussion on how to identify and address these biases in our offices on campus.

Session Title: From Second-Chance Pell to Prison Education Programs: Lessons Learned
Presenter: Ryan West, Executive Dean of Student Affairs at Chemeketa Community College

This session will explore the transition from the Experimental Sites Second Chance Pell Program to the more widely available Prison Education Programs. The session will discuss the challenges and successes that Chemeketa Community College (Oregon) has experienced in more than 2 decades of college in prisons as well as discuss the rules and considerations if you will be involved (or your institution is considering) starting a Prison Education Program.

Session Title: Leading From the Middle: What it Means and How to do it Well
Presenter: Amanda Cornelius, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management at Northern Arizona University. 2023-2024 WASFAA President

Have you heard phrases like “managing up, leading from the middle, leading your boss” and wondered what they really mean? I’ve heard employees say, “I can’t tell my boss what to do – they’re my boss!” While that’s true in a sense, there are ways to better manage your time, your communication with that person, and your team’s energy to best serve your organization. In this session you’ll learn about the benefits of leading your boss and walk away with practical tips you can use right now.

Session Title: Q and A Session with Training Officer Virginia Hagins
Presenter: Virginia Hagins, Training Officer, Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education

Have you ever wanted to ask a Federal Training Officer a direct question specific to a certain situation you’ve experienced on your campus? If so, here’s your chance. This session will provide you an opportunity to ask those situation-specific questions that don’t always get answered in the general sessions, and to hear questions from other campuses.

General Session Title: Federal Update
Presenter: Virginia Hagins, Training Officer, Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education

Join us for a high-level overview of recent and relevant guidance released from the U.S. Department of Education and Federal Student Aid concerning the proper administration of the Title IV programs. Learn about general statutory and regulatory changes, operational updates, and reminders schools need to know.

NASFAA U Session Title: Professional Judgment

Presenter: Ryan West, Executive Dean of Student Affairs at Chemekata Community College

This is a NASFAA authorized event teaching the concepts of Professional Judgment (PJ). PJ is sometimes viewed as one of the more challenging aspects of Title IV program administration. There are both explicit and implicit guidelines that must be followed in relation to other aspects of Title IV federal student aid administration. This session will cover guiding principles and assist you in their application on your campus.
