

OASFAA Newsletter



May 2018

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A publication of the Oregon Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, a not-for-profit membership organization.

President's Letter

May The Force Be With You!

As Obi-Wan Kenobi says, the Force is an energy field that surrounds us and binds the galaxy together. Does it sometimes feel like Financial Aid is the same? The Financial Aid "Forces" of Compliance, Regulation, Access, Completion, Demonstrated Need, and Student Success surround us all in the work we do every day in our offices. If you're like me, financial aid surrounds you in other places as well. How many of us have answered financial aid questions in the grocery store, library, or gym? The Financial Aid Forces also bind us together as an organization. It's the energy field that gives life to the work we do to help students and gives life to the work we do to support each other in OASFAA.

Planning is well underway for our training events this year. If you want to keep your light saber energized and be prepared for any disturbances in the Force, you'll want to attend one (or more!) training events this year. Stay tuned for dates and locations for the Summer Drive-In Workshop and FA 101/201. Our galactically-fabulous annual conference will be held at Salishan from February 6-8, 2019.

Finally, if you are feeling a tractor beam pulling you to volunteer for one of OASFAA Committees, please reach out to the committee chair or co-chair. The contact information for our committee chairs is on the Leadership page of the OASFAA web-site.

Happy Spring...and May The Force Be With You!



Volunteer Spotlight: Laruen Patterson

By Jess Kelly, Reed College

Lauren Patterson is the Director of Financial Services at the Art Institute of Portland, and has been an active member of the OASFAA community since 2013. This year, she's serving as the Summer Drive-In Co-Chair alongside Jake Logan. Thank you for all you do for OASFAA, Lauren!



How did you get started in financial aid, and how long have you been an OASFAA member?

I applied for a job on a whim back in 2007 at a small college in South-west Florida. I wasn't sure "what I wanted to be when I grew up" but thought working in higher education would be a good place to start. I received a call to come in for an interview the same day and found myself sitting and working in a

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Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily of OASFAA, its members, or the institutions represented by the authors.

OASFAA welcomes all views and invites submissions of articles, essays, photographs, or information of general interest to all members. Submissions should be brief and may be edited. It may not be possible to publish all articles submitted. Email items for publication to the Editors.

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Volunteer Spotlight: continued from Page 1

small financial aid office about a week later. I wasn't sure what to expect out of the position, and to be honest, I couldn't figure out what they were all talking about for the first few weeks. There were so many acronyms, policies and regulations, I was sure I had discovered a whole new language that just hadn't been officially recognized yet. But much to my amazement, after a few weeks, things started to click and the pieces of the puzzle began to fit together and here we are 11 years later, still loving my job and the challenges the profession brings.

I've been a member of OASFAA for 5 years now, ever since I moved back to Oregon in 2013. Prior to that, I was a member of the Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and served on the scholarship committee for 2 years.

Tell us about your volunteering experience so far with OASFAA. What was your first volunteer experience? What are you most proud of from your volunteering experience?

I didn't start volunteering with OASFAA until a few years ago. When I moved back to Oregon and took a new job, I felt that I was too busy to add another thing to my list, but boy was I wrong. Volunteering with OASFAA is so easy and there are so many ways to get involved. I started small by volunteering to work the OASFAA booth at the College Fair in Portland. It was just for a few hours, but it reminded me of how small and entwined our financial aid community is. We rely on each other for so much (trainings, mentorships... sanity checks!) and OASFAA provides the perfect platform to expand your network and increase your support system. The next year, I looked into how else I could get involved and applied and served as the VP Segmental Chair for the proprietary sector. In volunteering with OASFAA, there truly is something for everyone (big or small) and it offers a very rewarding opportunity to give back to our small community.

What gives me the most pride from volunteering with OASFAA is being able to see how a few people together can really make a difference. OASFAA and Oregon is a small group, but together we are very powerful. Understanding how even a small contribution of my time helps impact the greater footprint of OASFAA makes me feel good.

What are your goals as the Summer Drive-In Co-Chair this year?

Jacob and I are looking forward to bringing a Summer Drive-In to the Financial Aid community in Oregon that will provide an opportunity to brush up on some skills, obtain new training and offer a platform for those in our field to network with each other. Office budgets continue to get tighter and tighter; the Summer Drive-In offers an opportunity for a low cost and effective way for financial aid offices to help their teams brush up on some important trainings without having to send them too far from home. We are looking forward to seeing everyone this Summer!

Any words of wisdom you would like to share with your fellow OASFAA members?

Don't wait. Get involved now, I promise you it's a decision that you will never regret.



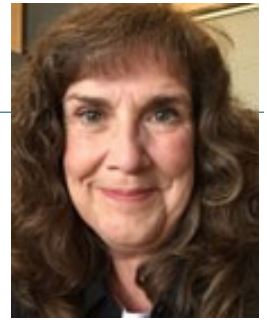
Community College Segmental Update

By Kate Hoeruf, VP Community Colleges

Hello from the Community College segment!

It seems spring term is upon us, the sun has come out, and I know many of us are busy with wrap up of current year and beginning to process the new aid year. We've had our share of challenges once again, and have mostly made it through —though year-end reconciliations loom on the horizon. The Oregon

Promise funding continues to provide students with the opportunity to attend college, and is fulfilling year-two of state initiatives to provide access to higher education. Guided Pathways is becoming a reality in Oregon as 5 community colleges were chosen to begin implementation. Senate Bill 253 has also presented a challenge as we seek the best way to provide students with loan borrowing stats, tuition and fees paid, etc. I am sure we are all looking for students to benefit from this information. As graduation comes closer, remind yourself that you are making a huge difference in the lives you touch through the work you do every day. This, after all, is what really matters.



Proprietary Segmental Update

By Kathryn Stone, VP Proprietary



Greetings OASFAA Membership!

It is with excitement that I write my first OASFAA Newsletter contribution! As your 2018 VP for Proprietary Schools, my primary focus for this year is to increase involvement within our sector. As our segment continues to shrink within the state

of Oregon, it has become increasingly important for proprietary schools to advocate, network, and lean on one another, and the OASFAA organization is an ideal way to facilitate this.

OASFAA now offers institutional membership, which is a fantastic way to get more people at your campuses involved with the organization. Institutional membership allows for an unlimited number of employees at your campus to become OASFAA members under the umbrella of one institutional fee. More members means an increased proprietary school representation, more proprietary school focused conference sessions, and increased opportunity for advocacy and change.

Getting involved with OASFAA is easy! I know, because after being an OASFAA member for more than a decade, I finally took the plunge last year and volunteered on the conference committee. It was a highly rewarding experience, requiring a low time commitment (almost less time it takes to log into NSLDS!). And, by the way, getting involved looks impressive on your resume! I invite each of you to reach out to me to talk more about how we can increase involvement from our sector and how you can get more involved with our state organization.

Look for more communication from me over the coming months. In the meantime, we'll all wait to hear about the outcomes from the Gainful Employment negotiated rulemaking sessions and count down the days until the next season of Game of Thrones. ☺



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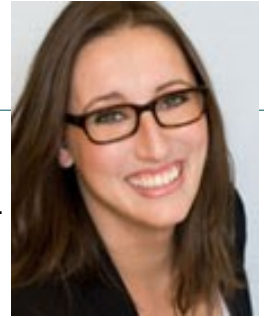
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Public 4 Year Colleges Segmental Update

By Debbie O'Dea, VP Public 4 Year Colleges

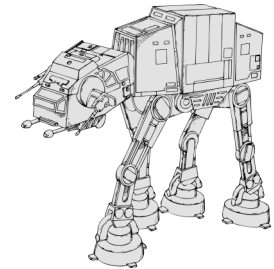
Happy May to all you lovely OASFAA members! I am very excited to be serving as the Segmental VP for Four-Year Public institutions for this year. I've had the pleasure of meeting many of you at both OASFAA and WASFAA conferences, but I know there are even more who I have not been able to cross path with yet.



Our segment really spans the entire state of Oregon so I acknowledge the struggle that is trying to get us all together in one spot; if I had an unlimited budget I'd cover everyone's transportation to give us an opportunity to have at least one solid happy hour somewhere in the middle! Alas, that likely won't be feasible, but that doesn't mean we can't connect in other ways! Please reach out with any thoughts or ideas you may have to connect our segment in spite of the miles. Keep an eye out for surprises from your VP, and be sure to play along if something unexpected lands on your desk!

Please do not hesitate to call or email (541-552-8294 or odead@sou.edu) with questions, ideas, concerns, or just to introduce yourself! I wholeheartedly believe in the power of a robust professional network, so let's use one another in times of need! Reach out if you are running into an issue and we can put it out through the listserve to harvest ideas from the masses!

I look forward to serving as your VP this year. Please do not hesitate to reach out!



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NASFAA Leadership and Legislative Conference Review

Brian Hultgren, Oregon State University



Thank you to OASFAA for giving me the opportunity to attend the NASFAA Leadership and Legislative Conference Feb. 26-28 in our Nation's Capital. I was flying solo for OASFAA this year because we did not have a treasure-elect. No worries though, I found several familiar faces and met tons of new ones. This year's conference had nearly 300 attendees participating in four different pathways.

- Association Management Pathway
- Fundamentals of Enrollment Management Pathway
- The New & Aspiring Aid Directors Pathway
- Strategic Enrollment Management Pathway

I attended the Association Management Pathway as OASFAA President-Elect where I was joined by current Presidents, President-Elects, Treasures, Treasure-Elects, Vice-Presidents, and even one Secretary from both State and Regional associations. I learned so much through this opportunity and it generated several ideas from brainstorming with other associates. Some of these ideas include best practices, how to retain volunteers, and ways to expand membership. This was a great way to start my Presidential journey and felt the training to be so valuable and eye-opening. We truly have a wonderful association in Oregon and are doing very well.

On the final day of the conference, I had the opportunity to head to Capitol Hill and meet with some of our Oregon legislators. I had the privilege to be joined by Kim Lamborn (University of Western States) and Keith Raab (Oregon State University) in our meetings. Thanks to OSU's Federal Government Relations Director, we were able to meet with staff from both senator's offices (Wyden and Merkley) as well as staff from Congressional representatives (Bonamici, DeFazio, and Blumenauer). We had great conversations about student access, current funding levels for high need students in Oregon, and the PROSPER Act. We highlighted some of the positives in the PROSPER Act like the Pell bonus, loan aggregate limits and FAFSA Simplification but also expressed concerns about eliminating Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Subsidized loans, the PLUS loan program, modifications to the Return of IV Fund Process, etc. We learned that both Bonamici and DeFazio are working on higher education bills. We found the legislator's staff to be very knowledgeable, engaging and interested in hearing about challenges facing students and the Title IV programs.

In closing, I am truly honored that I had this opportunity to learn, collaborate, and represent OASFAA and our great members at this conference. I encourage everyone to get involved if they can no matter how big or small, it all matters.

Capitol Hill,
Washington, D.C



Diversity ≠ Inclusion

OASFAA EDI Committee, Article by Araceli Cruz

I recently attended a scholarship reception on my campus where the Dean of Diversity and Inclusion had the opportunity to share her work on campus. As she continued her talk, she shared the following phrase that has been resonating with me:

“Diversity is being invited to the party; Inclusion is being asked to dance” - Verna Myers

After a few weeks of reflection, I have realized that this analogy oversimplifies two very complex ideas. Yet, its purpose serves as a platform for creating a distinction between two buzz terms that often are used interchangeably. What is clear in this analogy, however, is that diversity and inclusion can be mutually exclusive.

Diversity is a commitment to inviting individuals to the party from varying perspectives, histories, and experiences. It is an opportunity to understand, accept, and respect all individuals by embracing and recognizing the depth and breadth that diversity adds to our lives.

On the other hand, inclusion it is not only asking individuals to dance. It gives individuals the agency to participate on the planning committee, chose the music, ask others to dance, or not dance all. Inclusion is a commitment to helping individuals rise to their fullest potential.

Diversity and inclusion require us to move away from a celebratory framework. Rather, this work requires us to bring intentionality and awareness to the spaces we serve. It requires our vulnerability, self-reflection, and our ability to leverage our privilege for the greater good of our colleagues and students. I leave you with a few ideas on how to intentionally practice inclusivity.

Inclusive Practices:

- Demonstrate empathy.
- Review your office policies and procedures for exclusionary practices.
- Build authentic relationships with those around you.
- Take time to engage in professional development trainings outside of financial aid.
- Use your office space to promote trust by using visuals that are represented historically marginalized underrepresented groups.
- Maintain open lines of communication and be open to feedback.
- Acknowledge someone else’s presence by smiling, saying hi, or making eye contact.
- Check your own privilege.



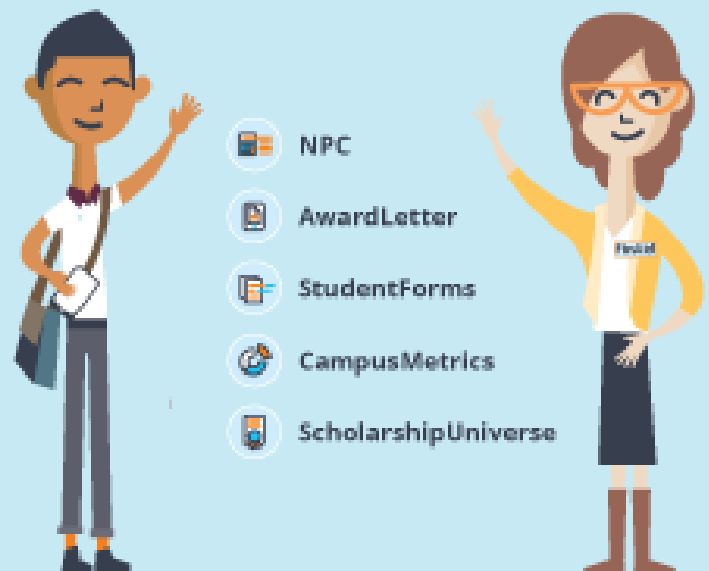
Pro-tip: IT IS NEVER OKAY...

Things to never ask a student, or anyone in general:

- What are you?
- What is your nationality?
- What is your ethnicity?
- What is your status?
- Do you have a disability?
- What is your gender?

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Member Updates



Promotions & Achievements

Rachael Kloke at Concordia University has accepted a new position as a Financial Aid Specialist in Compliance.

New Hires

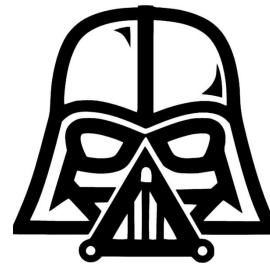
Sasha Hernandez has accepted a new position at Concordia University as a Financial Aid Counselor.
Tiffany Eurich has accepted a new position at Concordia University as a Financial Aid Counselor.
Amanda Diem has accepted a new position at Concordia University as a Financial Aid Counselor.
Amy Wheeler has accepted a new position at Concordia University as a Financial Aid Counselor.
Ellora La Shier has accepted a new position at Concordia University as a Financial Aid Specialist.

Celebrations

Casey Carr, Concordia University and her Husband welcomed a beautiful baby girl named Addison into the world on March 25th.

Why did Anakin cross the road?

To get to the dark side.



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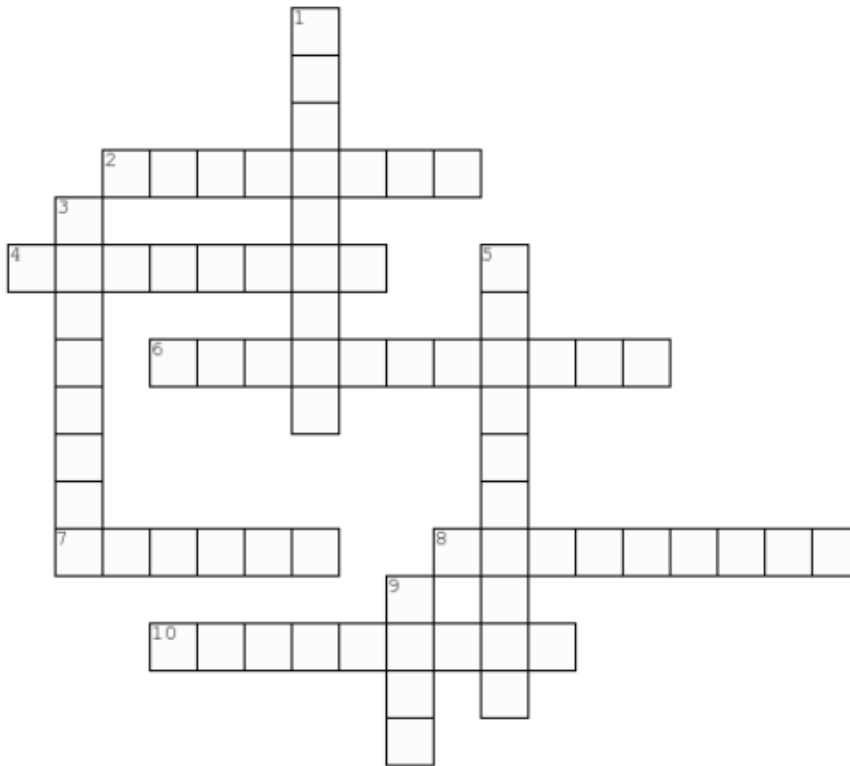
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Across

2. Aims to promote fairness but ignores the fact that everyone starts at different place and need different kinds of help.
4. Prejudiced thoughts and discriminatory actions against young people, in favor of older person(s).
6. Treating everyone the same (i.e., "I don't see race, gender, etc.")
7. ...is giving everyone the tools and resources they need to be successful.
8. The wide variety of shared and different personal and group characteristics among human beings.
10. a right, license, or exemption from duty or liability granted as a special benefit, advantage, or favor.

Down

1. the action or state of including or of being included within a group or structure.
3. Someone who speaks up for her/himself and members of his/her identity group.
5. The conscious or unconscious processes by which the voice or participation of particular social identities is excluded.
9. A person of one social identity group who stands up in support of members of another group.

Save the Date:

Please join us at the 51st Annual OASFAA Conference
Wednesday, February 6-Friday, February 8
Salishan Spa & Golf Resort, Gleneden Beach, OR

