



OASFAA NEWSLETTER

A publication of the Oregon Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

SPRING 2022

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2022 Legislative Session Success for Oregon Promise Grant

Low-income students will have more support from the Oregon Promise Grant based on approved changes in SB 1522 passed by the 2022 Legislature and pending signature by Governor Brown:

- Starting with the Class of 2022 (March 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022 graduates), the **GPA requirement has been lowered to a cumulative, unweighted 2.0**
 - *Interested Class of 2022 students must apply for Oregon Promise by **JUNE 1 at 5:00 PM** to be considered for the grant*
- For all students who will receive the Oregon Promise Grant in the 2022-23 academic year, there will be changes to the award calculation and renewal requirements:
 - The **\$50 per term co-pay** has been removed from the award calculation
 - The **minimum award will increase** from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for full-time, full-year students, and it will increase at the same rate as the maximum award each year
 - The **First-Year Experience will no longer be a requirement** to renew the Oregon Promise Grant

For more information, please visit the Oregon Promise sections of the [OSAC website](#). Students must meet all eligibility criteria to be awarded the grant. Awarding for the Class of 2022 will begin in the spring.



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Volunteer Spotlight: Debbie O'Dea

The OASFAA Volunteer Spotlight shines on Debbie O'Dea, the Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Portland State University located in Portland.

Volunteer activities with OASFAA: Community Partner Training Committee, FA 101/201, pretty much whatever I need to do to help OASFAA!

How long have you been in financial aid? Nine years (I'll throw a party when I hit ten! Everyone is invited! Any excuse for a party!)

How did you get your start in financial aid? I was offered a graduate assistantship in a financial aid office during my master's program. After grad school, I took a slight detour into live production before coming back to FA as a counselor.

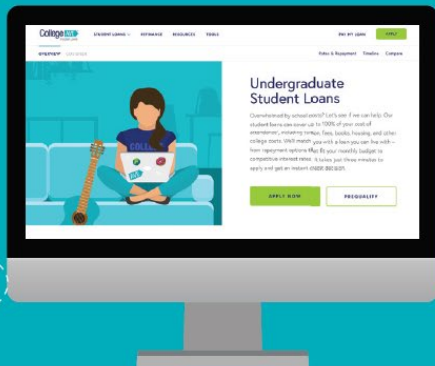
What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Any opportunity to connect with students, parents, and campus partners and help demystify FA a little for them. I also love building partnerships with colleagues in other areas to create more opportunities to support students.

What case/student will you be most likely to remember for the rest of your life?

There are definitely some students who stick with me, both good AND bad. I worked with a wonderful student and her parents her freshman year. We saw one another periodically over the next three years, to check in and make sure everything was good to go. The year she graduated I was honored to be nominated for a staff award at the university, and she was one of the references the committee spoke with. A committee member told me afterward that it was the most emotional and moving reference call they had ever done, and this student told them over and over that without my support and guidance she never would have graduated, let alone a year early. I had no idea I had made such an impact; all our meetings seemed really straightforward and easy. It was a good reminder that every interaction we have with a student can make an impact. (...continued on page 3...)

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(...continued from page 2...)

What is the most difficult aspect of your job?

It never feels good to disappoint people and unfortunately our work results in that more often than I would like.

How do you cope with stress on the job?

I keep some very clear boundaries between work time and NOT-work time. Work/life balance is something that I must have in order to maintain my sanity. It also helps to have some good friends in the industry who understand the nonsense that goes on and can empathize with me when I need to vent!

Who has been the biggest influence/mentor on you & your career?

Some of my biggest professional influences, across all the industries and positions I have worked in, have been ineffective managers/leaders. Those experiences have motivated me to create an effective and supportive environment for the people I work with; sometimes really good lessons can be learned in less-than-ideal situations. Jess Kelly, Ingrid Baker, and Shauna Harper are the best cheerleaders a lady could ever ask for. Those three have provided me with so many necessary sanity checks and have kept me motivated and moving forward through challenging times. Ryan West, Mike Johnson, Brian Hultgren, and Helen Faith have coached me through some complex professional situations and given me valuable input in my decision-making processes. I also have an invaluable group of ladies who work in other areas of higher education who can offer me outside (of FA) perspectives on situations while still having an understanding of college and university bureaucracy.



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What is/was your favorite volunteer experience?

The Community Partner Training Committee allows me to connect with folks outside of FA to help provide clarification and support in understanding our complex work. I enjoy watching people who come in feeling really confused and overwhelmed walk out with a better understanding of FA. And the Annual Conference will always hold a special place in my heart. It's some of the hardest volunteer work but I love a well-executed event and the satisfaction of seeing attendees enjoying themselves and finding value in their time there!

What do you do when you are not working?

I love food and friends and laughter, and I love it the most when they are all combined. When the weather cooperates and those three things can happen outside, I love it even more. I love outdoor concerts, camping, hiking, and reading. I love the Timbers and the Blazers. #rctid

What do you like about Oregon?

I like that Oregon has so many beautiful places to visit and explore. I also enjoy that we have access to such high-quality local food, beer, and wine.

What is the most unusual place you have vacationed?

The Black Sheep, an eco-lodge in Chugchilán, Ecuador. It involved a toilet with a mountain view, playing Scrabble with Swedish travelers, a very long hike, a remote, mountainside cheese factory, and a cloud forest. And one REALLY bad sunburn.

What was the last book you read?

Malibu Rising by Taylor Jenkins Reid

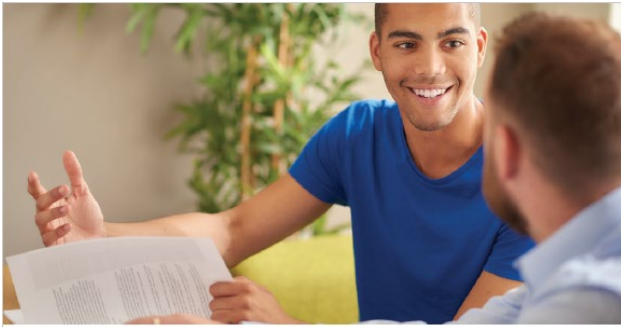
If you could change anything in our industry, what would it be?

We are asked to do so much with so few resources, sometimes I feel like we are forced to choose between compliance and serving students. I wish there were more resources available to financial aid offices so that we could have the time to give students more holistic support. (...continued on page 5...)

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2022 Annual OASFAA Conference

Against all odds, OASFAA's 53rd Annual Conference was held in-person at the beautiful Salishan Coastal Lodge during the first week of February. After the cancellation of last year's conference due to the pandemic, colleagues were happy to reconvene and once again gather at the Oregon coast after two years away! We had 78 colleagues join us from across the state, including 10 corporate partners who joined us from Oregon to Nebraska and beyond! We were thrilled to be joined by 25 newcomers this year!

Our Keynote speaker, Luhui Whitebear, joined us virtually as some of our presenters experienced travel limitations due to the pandemic. Dr. Whitebear spoke on how students of color and LGBTQIA2S+ students are often described as historically underserved or historically underrepresented on college campuses. She asked what if we were to use "institutionally underserved" to help us reframe our strategies of supporting students? Dr. Whitebear discussed how using this framework can help us think beyond the limitations of existing resources and support to what is possible when we focus on those most institutionally underserved. In addition, she also shared parts of her own collegiate journey and how that informs her work with students now.

With over 25 sessions to choose from, the breakout topics ran the gamut. Some options included "Serving Hispanic and Latine Students in Oregon with Mindfulness: ¡Juntos logramos éxito!" with Anel Venegas Trujillo and Hallie Price-Asadare, "How to Engage Your Students Better Than TikTok" with Rosemary Martinez-Kepford, "The Road Map for Empowering Students from Historically Marginalized Groups Through Financial Wellness Education" with Dr. Gilbert Rogers and Jennifer Bell, "Preparing for the End of the COVID-19 Forbearance and Avoiding a CDR Disaster" with Greg Kerr, and "Internal and External Threats Facing Title IV Institutions" with special agent Adam Shanedling from the Office of Inspector General. WASFAA President Sarah Everitt joined us from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington and from the Department of Education we were joined virtually by training officer, Virginia Hagins, who presented on Professional Judgment and R2T4. Karen McCarthy, NASFAA's Vice President of Public Policy and Federal Relations, joined us virtually from Washington D.C. to give us an Inside the Beltway Federal update. Many of us earned our NASFAA U Verification... (...continued on page 5...)



(...continued from page 4...) ...credential thanks to our fearless instructor, Ryan West. Thank you to all our presenters, near and far! Your time and energy for this event is so valuable to our state's development in the field.

On Wednesday night, we gathered in the Long House for the President's Reception and on Thursday evening we watched Salishan's chefs cook their traditional potlatch salmon over an open bonfire. What could a Thursday night at the conference be without Karaoke in the Attic Lounge and Trivia Night in the Gallery?

For this year's charity partner we worked with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Our goal as an organization was to raise \$1000 for a tribal scholarship, and to contribute non-perishable food to the tribal



organization's Food Share Program. CTSI's Education Programs Manager, Alissa Lane-Keene, joined us remotely to share about the impact of these scholarship funds, and we are so thankful for her words and time. Thanks to the generosity of our members, a total of \$3000 was raised for a scholarship, which includes ECMC's generous match of \$1000.



We hope you found this year's conference to be as successful and meaningful to your work as a financial aid professional as we did. Annual Conference 2023 is already in the works, and we're hoping you'll join us back at Salishan next February! If you are interested in being a part of next year's committee, we encourage you to indicate your interest through the Volunteer Preferences form as soon as possible, as the 2023 committee will be formed soon!

Your 2022 Annual Conference Co-Chairs, Debbie O'Dea and Ingrid Baker

(Volunteer Spotlight...continued from page 3...)

Do you have any advice for your fellow financial aid administrators?

Make connections across the state and region, and always look for ways to learn more. You never know when an opportunity will present itself, and having the knowledge or network necessary to take it on will set you up for success. Also, remember to celebrate the wins. This work can wear you out and feel so hard some days, so taking time to celebrate the little things can help to keep you from burning out.

If you were not in the financial aid industry, what would you be doing now?

Either full-time event coordination or I would open a little cafe that specializes in pies (both savory and sweet), simple meals, and great cocktails.





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2022 Annual OASFAA Awards

During the 2022 OASFAA Annual Conference, the Association presented the annual OASFAA Awards. The presentation started off with an award that did not exactly fit an existing category, but warranted recognition so the awards committee was sufficiently flexible. The Financial Aid Office at **Mt. Hood Community College** was recognized for their dedication and service to the students of east Multnomah county who struggle to successfully match a mailed signature page to their processed FAFSA. As long as the student includes MHCC on their FAFSA so MHCC can access the student's FAFSA record in FAA Access to CPS Online, MHCC will collect the signature page, apply the signatures electronically and then maintain the documentation for the required retention period. The college sees this as a community service and not necessarily a recruitment activity and thus it is open to any student whom they can help, not just students who choose to apply for admission to MHCC. Great job serving all students in their quest for financial aid MHCC!



In our more defined award categories, OASFAA has the Friend of OASFAA award which typically honors an individual who has provided exceptional service and support to OASFAA, the financial aid community, and students over an extended period of time. This award is generally given to a non-member or to an affiliate member of OASFAA. In light



of our long-standing and wonderful working relationship with **Salishan Coastal Lodge**, the Association was pleased to recognize them as the 2022 Friend of OASFAA Award winner. Beyond the high-quality service, beautiful rooms and facilities and amazing food (including troughs of ever popular bacon), this past year when the conference was canceled due to COVID, Salishan could have cashed in on the penalty for our canceled conference. However, at every step of the way and through multiple iterations of what a conference might look like for us, Salishan was flexible, patient and kind and worked with us until we could fulfill the contract with a successful in-person conference.

One of the newest awards for OASFAA is the Rookie of the Year Award. This award is given to an OASFAA voting member who shows great potential for leadership within the financial aid community. Recipients may be someone who has been in the financial aid profession less than 3 years or someone who is new to volunteering with OASFAA.

This year's Rookie of the Year recipient is **Layton Spence** from Oregon State University. Layton came well nominated with five separate nomination letters being submitted. Here are some of the things written about Layton. Layton has been quick to volunteer with OASFAA despite only being in the field for a few years. Layton has been involved in projects of varying sizes but seems to have a knack for taking things and making them run smoother or better or helping to broaden the scope of projects to increase access and awareness and think of populations who are perhaps not being served as well as they can be. Layton's ideas and drive are solid and inspired others to keep working in careful, thoughtful ways. Layton also contributed significant time in the FAFSA/ORSAA completion videos produced through The College Place.

In their own workspace, Layton was absolutely instrumental in setting up a functioning workspace in a newly independently-accredited college campus, taking leadership roles related to Oregon Promise awarding and reporting,... (...continued on page 8...)

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(...continued from page 7...) ...assisted in developing the office’s professional judgment policy and designed many financial aid forms. Never did they express frustration with the lack of existing structure or countless hours of training. Layton’s commitment to equity and inclusion was noted in both their work in the office and on OASFAA committees.

The final award recognition of the night was for the OASFAA Distinguished Service Award. This award honors an individual who has made significant contributions to OASFAA and to the financial aid profession over a period of time, or has made an outstanding one-time contribution to OASFAA and/or the

financial aid profession. The winner of the 2022 OASFAA Distinguished Service award is **Heather Hall Lewis** from University of Portland. Here are some of the notes from Heather’s nominations: When I think of all that Heather has committed to our profession throughout her career, I’m unsure whether her outstanding wisdom or quiet sense of care is what comes to my mind first. She is steadfast, intelligent, practical and in every discussion, helps keep things focused on the work at hand. In discussions of multiple viewpoints, I find myself waiting for Heather’s contribution as I know it will be thoughtful, helpful and kind. Student financial aid administration at University of Portland, and in the state of Oregon is better because of the work that she has done.

Janet Turner, Director of Financial Aid at University of Portland says, “Heather consistently exhibits strong leadership skills in her role as our Associate Director. We call her the “wizard behind the curtain” as she helps keeps processes moving along with our complex awarding criteria and many, many electronic forms. She takes initiative to be proactive in the ever-changing regulatory environment by accessing resources to understand the nuances of the aid programs that she helps to administer. Heather’s voice is often the cautionary one that helps others look at the broader picture when considering modifying processes. She takes a holistic approach to problem-solving and understands that even small changes in one area can significantly impact others. Heather’s critical thinking skills, as well as her compassion for helping others, are what distinguish her apart from others with similar goals. Heather has been an integral part of the UP Financial Aid family and has been a great friend to OASFAA for many years!”

Heather has served on multiple committees during her time with OASFAA as well as holding multiple stints on the Executive Board. The common factor in all her efforts is that the work gets done and it gets done with great quality. Heather just wrapped up a 3-year tenure as Treasurer, which may just be the most involved job in all of OASFAA. On top of the gig as Treasurer, she has been serving as the defacto technology chair by handling all things with the OASFAA website as we’ve dealt with heavy turnover in that role. This has been a large burden and trial by... *(...continued on page 9...)*



(...continued from page 8...) ...fire, but like everything else, this person seems to take things in stride and handles them with intelligence and grace.

Congratulations to Heather, Layton, Salishan and the Mt. Hood Community College Financial Aid Office for all their hard work and accomplishment!



The 2022 NASFAA National Conference will take place both virtually and in-person this year!

- June 26-29 – In-person at the Austin Convention Center in Austin, TX
- July 11-14 – Virtual Conference

More information available at <https://www.nasfaa.org/conference>.

School Profile

by Keri Burke, Director of Financial Aid, Linfield University

School's Mission statement:

Linfield University advances a vision of learning, life and community that:

Promotes intellectual challenge and creativity

Values both theoretical and practical knowledge

Engages thoughtful dialogue in a climate of mutual respect

Honors the rich texture of diverse cultures and varied ways of understanding

Piques curiosity for a lifetime of inquiry

And inspires the courage to live by moral and spiritual principle and to defend freedom of conscience campus

Linfield - Connecting Learning, Life and Community



What year was your institution founded? 1858

What is your current undergraduate and/or graduate enrollment? Undergraduate enrollment as of Fall 2021 – 1,798

What types of degrees do you offer and what's your largest or most popular program? Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts, and Master of Science



Is your campus primarily residential, commuter, or online? The McMinnville Campus is Primarily residential, the Portland Campus is a commuter campus, and we have an online Continuing Education Program. (...continued on page 10...)



(...continued from page 9...)

If you have athletics programs, what is your most successful program? Football, by far. At 65 years, we boast to longest winning seasons streak in the country. Our Softball, Baseball, Tennis, and Basketball teams are often top of our league also.

What is your school mascot? Mack the Wildcat

What are your school colors? Purple, Cardinal, and White

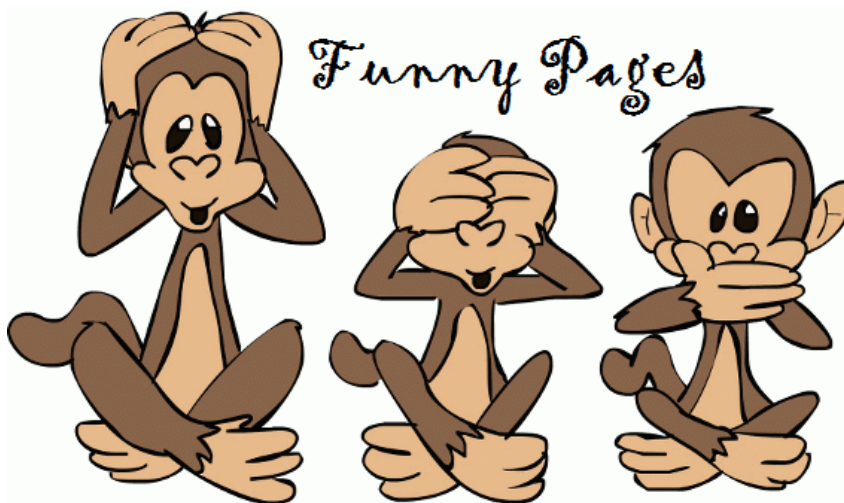
Do you offer institutional grants and/or scholarships? Yes – and unfortunately, it is never enough.

Do you run on semesters, quarters, trimesters, or another schedule? Semesters

Do you offer programs using credit hours or clock hours? Credits

What type of financial management system do you use? Ellucian

What is one thing EVERYONE should know about your institution or one little-known fact? We have our own wine label that cannot be purchased and can only be consumed on campus. The perks of having the nation’s only liberal arts wine studies program. Cheers!



Got one to share? Send it to feverett@roquecc.edu. All submissions will be published anonymously.

“This is serious! I had a student tell me he failed a class because his friends kept texting him during class. I said turn.your.phone.off! He couldn’t understand...”

“I cannot order my transcripts because that was a bad time in my life when I went to those colleges and my therapist says I need to put behind me everything from that point in my life. Therefore, I’ll not be submitting those, but I do expect to receive my aid and VA benefits. Please submit the paperwork so I can receive my money.”



Queen Sha ❤️
@Capt_Thickness

These GPA looking gas prices gotta go. Gas \$3.89. Suma Cum Laude gas. I need academic probation gas.

9/5/17, 12:36 PM

56.6K Retweets 144K Likes

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If it's happening in OASFAA, it's happening at...

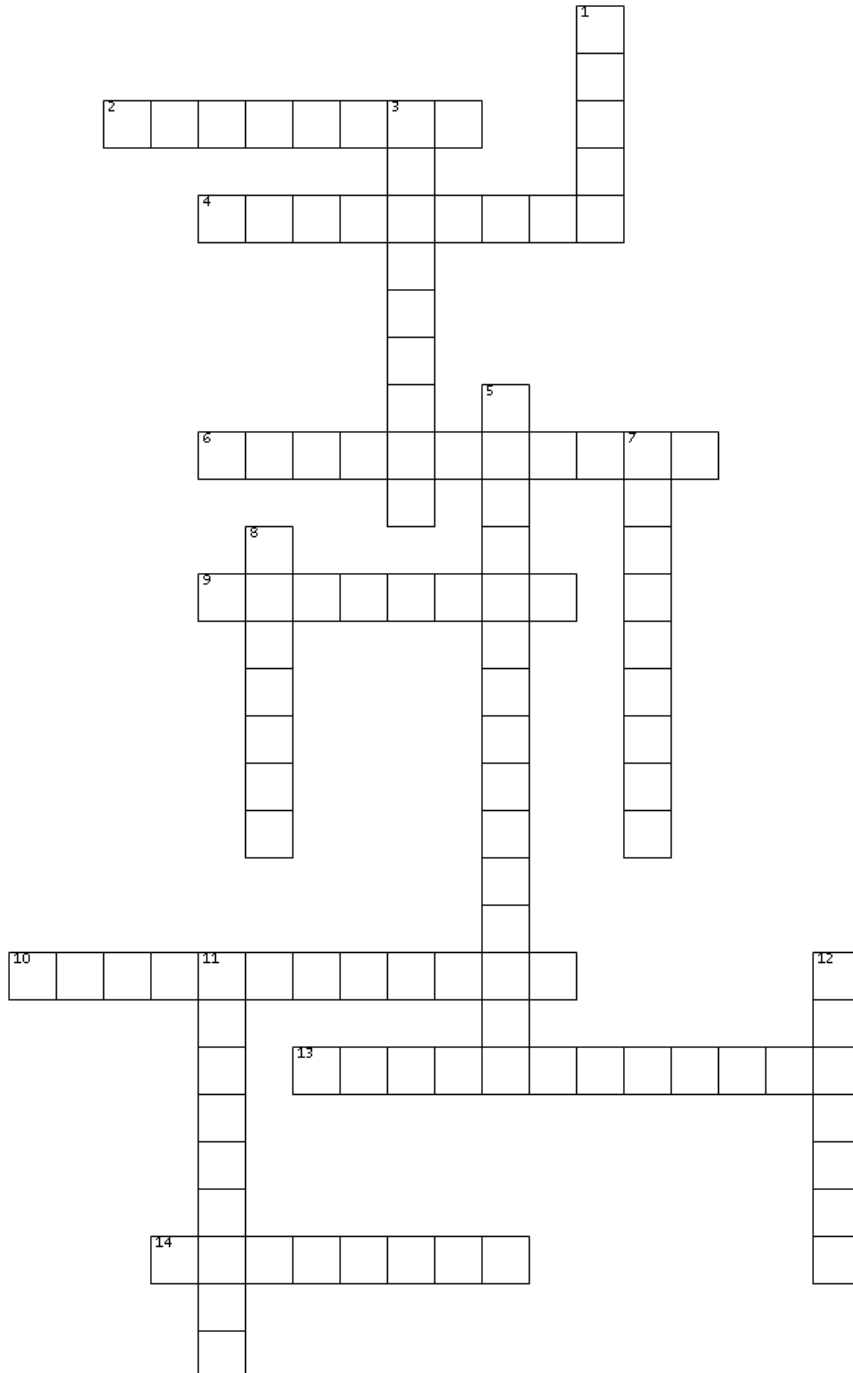
The Watercooler

Teresa Castro & Daisy Martinez are the newest Financial Aid Counselors at University of Oregon.

Lyndsay Tarrant joins Rogue Community College as the newest Financial Aid Advisor.

If you or someone you know has received a promotion, taken a new job, or experienced a significant life event, email: feverett@roquecc.edu

Spring Crossword – Oregon's Wonders



ACROSS

- 2. Former location of the Rajneeshpuram in Wasco County
- 4. Tallest waterfall, stands 620 feet high outside Portland
- 6. Coast location for Finders Keepers glass floats
- 9. Gleneden resort site for many OASFAA conferences
- 10. House of Mystery located in Gold Hill
- 13. Cannon Beach site featured in The Goonies
- 14. National Volcanic Monument located south of Bend

DOWN

- 1. Small community in Lake County where sunstones can be found
- 3. site of a prestigious rodeo and an underground city
- 5. Kids amusement park in state capital
- 7. Blue Pool on the McKenzie River Trail
- 8. Mountains containing Ice Lake
- 11. Old growth forest containing Jawbone Flats, damaged in Beachie Creek Fire
- 12. Waterfall on the North Umpqua River near Roseburg

**Interested in volunteering for OASFAA?
Contact a committee chair below...**

2022 Committee Chairs

Annual Conference	Ingrid Baker Debbie O’Dea	FA 101/201	Karen Ash Sandy Sundstrom
Archives	Shauna Harper	Funds Development	Suzie Petersen
Communications	Frankie Everett	Membership	(vacant)
Community Partnership	Jenn Satalino	OSAC Liaison	(vacant)
Corporate Liaison	Breana Sylwester	Site Selection	Ryan West
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion	Wendy Papkoff Hallie Jo Price Rylan Wall	Technology	Frankie Everett
		Volunteer Coordinator	(vacant)

OASFAA Newsletter Editorial Staff:

➤ Frankie Everett ➤ Ashley Coleman ➤ Spencer Smith ➤ Layla Solar ➤ Ryan West ➤

Editorial Policy: 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. Contact the Editor with questions.

SAVE THE DATE

3.23-3.25 – WASFAA Management & Leadership Institute (Tempe, AZ)

5.2-5.4 – WASFAA Conference (Las Vegas, NV)

6.26-6.29 – NASFAA (Austin, TX)

7.11-7.14 – NASFAA Virtual Conference

2.8-2.10, 2023 – NASFAA Leadership & Legislative Expo

Check the OASFAA calendar for webinars & training events available to our membership at: www.oasfaaonline.org