

OASFAA NEWSLETTER

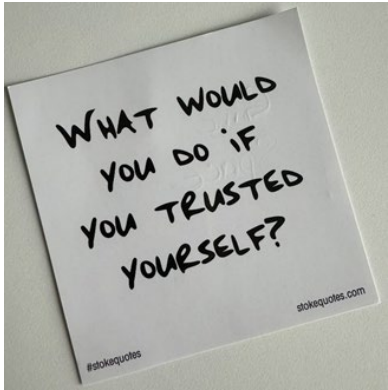
A publication of the Oregon Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

- EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**
- Karen Ash
President
 - Debbie O’Dea
President-Elect
 - Carlos Villarroel
Past President
 - Hallie Price-Asadare
IDEA Advocate
 - Leslie Lloyd
Secretary
 - Shauna Stevens
Treasurer
 - Breana Sylwester
VP 2-year Public
 - Karinda Decker
VP 4-year Public
 - Johanna Kaye
VP Private
 - Shauna Wing
VP Proprietary



Dear OASFAA Colleagues,

I hope this message finds you well. It's been a busy few months here at OASFAA, and I'm excited to share some updates with you all. One of the highlights of the past few months was our annual conference, Unmasking Financial Aid. With over 100 attendees, it was a great success. We welcomed Marli Williams as our keynote speaker and WOW did she get the party started! How many times have you stood up and danced in your office? I think we all looked fantastic dancing together! Do you remember your Stoke Quote? Dig it out of your cool OASFAA pencil pouch and take a moment to remember the awesome promise you made to yourself. Now put that promise where you will see it every day! And, don't forget your permission to play slip, you know the one that you filled out stating that it's okay to take the time to do the things you enjoy. And to allow yourself to have more fun and to fill up your cup so that you can serve others, live with a purpose, and lead with love. Marli signed off for all of us to have fun!



We had a fantastic lineup of speakers who provided valuable insights into the latest trends and best practices in financial aid administration. Helen Faith from the University of Wisconsin-Madison taught us how to Stay In Love With Financial Aid Even When It's Hard, and Marvin Smith from the University of California-Los Angeles provided us with a NASFAA update and talked SAP with us. WASFAA President Amanda Cornelius from Northern Arizona University joined us and provided insight on how to update job functions and set clear expectations. Rumor has it she was very impressed with our karaoke skills. Aurie Clifford from Pima Community College led our members through one of NASFAA's credentials, Professional Judgment. Attendees had the opportunity to network with peers, learn from experts, and share their own experiences and challenges.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all the speakers, volunteers, and attendees who made this conference such a success. Your dedication and commitment to our mission are truly inspiring.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events and initiatives coming up. Our team is working hard to provide more resources and training opportunities for our members, as well as to advocate for policies that support students and their families. If you have not already done so, make sure you are registered for the [WASFAA Summer Institute...](#)

(...President's Corner, continued on page 2...)

INSIDE EVERY ISSUE:

- Volunteer Spotlight.....8
- School Profile.....3
- Save the Date.....3
- The Watercooler.....9
- Funny Pages.....10
- Crossword Puzzle.....10

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- President's Corner.....1
- Annual Conference.....2
- OASFAA Awards.....3
- Conference Scholarship Recipients.....5
- VP Report.....6
- IDEA Committee.....6

(...President's Corner, continued from page 1...)

... held June 3-7 at Boise State. WASFAA members can submit a [general](#) or [IDEEA](#) scholarship application now.

I welcome your suggestions, feedback, and ideas. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if you'd like to get more involved in our community.

Thank you for your continued support of OASFAA. Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of students and families across Oregon.

Be well,
Karen Ash, OASFAA President



2024 Annual OASFAA Conference

OASFAA's 55th Annual Conference was held at the beautiful Salishan Coastal Lodge with clear and mild weather until our departure on the final day.

We had 111 colleagues join us, and our keynote speaker, Marli Williams, kicked off the event with a lively and interactive discussion on navigating change and challenge with confident.

We had a wide range of topics, from Values Based Leadership with Aurie Clifford to Helen Faith's Staying in Love with Financial Aid, as well as excellent sessions on Gen Z, Policy Implementation, Cybersecurity, and the NASFAA credential on Professional Judgement. 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.

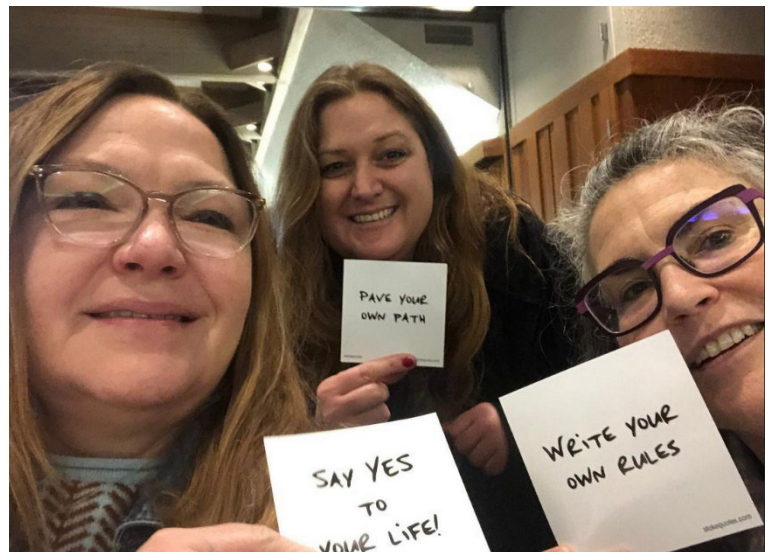


This year's community partner was Outside In, a nonprofit health and social service agency that supports youth experiencing homelessness and other marginalized people as they move toward improved health and self-sufficiency, with extensive wraparound services for young adults. For more than five decades, the organization has served those who live in the struggle of being invisible, and who are disregarded, forgotten, oppressed, and discriminated against. Outside In continues to accept monetary donations on their website at:

<https://outsidein.org/oasfaa/>. Thank you for your generous support of our charity partner, OASFAA community! (...Annual Conference, continued on page 3...)



On Wednesday night, we gathered in the Long House for the President's Reception, followed by a president's party after dinner in the Sunset Suite. Thursday night, the attendees donned their masks for dinner and awards, then made their way to game night and the karaoke party! Don't let us forget to mention that there was bacon!



(...Annual Conference, continued from page 2...) 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 2025 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, or by contacting OASFAA's volunteer coordinator, [Ingrid Baker](#), as the 2025 committee will be formed soon!

Your 2024 Annual Conference Co-Chairs, Emory Spence, Rebecca Lewis, and Shauna Wing



Annual OASFAA Awards



There are so many great things about being involved with OASFAA. At the top of the list has to be the networking opportunities to get to know one another across our shared profession and to forge personal connections with some truly amazing people. At the 2024 Annual Conference, we recognized the following individuals for their work and service in the financial aid industry:

- Lifetime Membership Recipients: Lois DeGhetto, Oregon State University; and Leslie Limper, Pacific University
- Distinguished Service Award: Peter Goss, Portland Community College
- Unsung Hero Award: Kyra King, HECC/OSAC
- Rookie of the Year: Amy Davies, University of Oregon

School Profile

by Brian Hultgren, Associate Director of Financial Aid, Oregon State University

School's Mission statement: As a land grant institution committed to teaching, research, and outreach and engagement, Oregon State University promotes economic, social, cultural, and environmental progress for the people of Oregon, the nation, and the world.

What year was your institution founded? 1868

What is your current undergraduate and/or graduate enrollment? As of Winter 2024, Undergraduates are at 29,032 and Graduate students are at 4,735. (...School Profile, continued on page 4...)



Oregon State
University

SAVE THE DATE

6.3-6.7 – WASFAA Summer Institute

6.16-6.19 – NASFAA (Milwaukee WI)

7.8-7.11 – NASFAA Virtual Conference

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



(...Annual Conference, continued from page 3...)

What types of degrees do you offer and what's your largest or most popular program? OSU offers nearly 200 undergraduate and graduate degree programs through its 11 colleges, the Graduate School and the Honors College. While Engineering is our most popular program, we also have a strong academic reputation, particularly in fields such as forestry, oceanography, and earth sciences. Additionally, the university is known for its research contributions in areas such as marine sciences, renewable energy, and environmental sustainability.

Is your campus primarily residential, commuter, or online?

Our school is a mix of all three. We have extended campuses and we have over 100+ programs for online students. While we are in the top 10 for 10 years in a row for online education, we are primarily residential.

If you have athletics programs, what is your most successful program? OSU participates in 16 sports (7 men's and 9 women's). In the 2023-2024 Academic year OSU's Baseball, Football, Men's Soccer, Women's Basketball, Woman's Gymnastics, and Wrestling all were or are nationally ranked in the top 25. Currently both Women's Basketball and Men's Baseball ranked in the top 10 nationally. Women's Track & Field had 3 All Americans and Men's soccer made it to the Final Four. Go Beavs!

What is your school mascot? Benny Beaver was adopted as Oregon State University's mascot in 1952 after the school had a reported three previous mascots. He can be traced back to the 1940-41 school year. A statue of a beaver named "Benny" appears in the school's yearbook, and later a barometer sports columnist used the pen name "Benny Beaver."

What are your school colors? Beaver Orange, Paddletail black, and Bucktooth white

Do you offer institutional grants and/or scholarships? Yes, we have institutional Grants for Resident, Non-resident, and E-campus students. The same can be said for scholarships as well. With 9 competing scholarships for New Resident/transfers and 5 competing scholarships for New Non-resident/transfers. Also each of our 11 colleges offer scholarships.

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

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

What type of financial management system do you use? Ellucian Banner

What is one thing EVERYONE should know about your institution or one little-known fact? Very hard to just pick one but Oregon State is one of only two universities in the U.S. that have been honored with land, sea, space, and sun grant designations. OSU also has a presence in all 36 Oregon counties and on all seven continents.



Annual Conference Scholarship Recipients



Karinda Decker, Financial Aid Director, Southern Oregon University

I am so grateful that I was able to attend the 2024 OASFAA Conference due to being selected as the OASFAA Scholarship recipient. This was my first in-person conference since 2019 and it was an incredibly valuable experience. As someone who has worked in financial aid for over 10 years and been to a variety of conferences, I usually go to a conference with the hope that I will learn a few things. I mean, nothing has changed that much in financial aid right? Putting the FAFSA complication aside, although I did learn more about that as well, I left with so much more.

I was so impressed by the variety of sessions. From building a financial literacy program at your institution to the crazy challenges coming with Study Abroad, and yes, the 2024-2025 FAFSA. I came back to my institution with so much knowledge and ideas on process improvement. It allowed me to review current policies like SAP and make changes that were more student-friendly while also maintaining compliance. The timing of the OASFAA conference aligning with yet another announcement from the Department of Education on additional ISIR delays was unexpected but I am so happy that we were able to process the information together.

I can genuinely say that without this experience I would not have been able to make some major improvements to our processes. Ultimately this will help the students at SOU as well. I think that's a testament to the amazing humans that organized the OASFAA Conference. The impact of their work is not just a benefit to Financial Aid Administrators but to our institution and students across the state.

I look forward to next year and seeing everyone after we can finally say we've survived the 2024-2025 FAFSA!

Cheyenne Standing-Elk, Financial Aid Advisor, Oregon State University

First, I want to thank the OASFAA scholarship committee on selecting me as a recipient. I was on the programming committee for the conference and was able to see the sessions ahead of time that were going to be presented, which was one of the reasons I applied in order to get the opportunity to go again. Because of that, it really made me want to attend to learn more about Gen Z that I was not aware of. Like how 84% of Gen Z take the time to read physical mail and nearly 50% ignore digital ads. Or learning about questions to ask myself and office when it comes to bias and how we can help eliminate it from our work with students. Both of these sessions were my favorite. This was my second time attending OASFAA and I learned a lot and had some great conversations related to work I wanted to bring back to my institution at OSU. I hope more individuals get the opportunity to go to this conference. Not only to network and learn what other schools are doing, but a way to stay passionate about financial aid and the support we bring back to the students we serve.

Ashley Coleman, R2T4 & Pell Grant Coordinator, Oregon State University

I was honored to be selected to receive a scholarship to attend the 2024 OASFAA conference. It had been many years since I was able to attend, and the conference was wonderful. One of the sessions that I enjoyed the most was the keynote on navigating change and challenge with confidence and becoming an EPIC leader, presented by Marli Williams. There were many thought-provoking concepts that Marli shared. A few of my favorites were Maya Angelou's quote of 'I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel' – focus on bringing good energy to those around you. Low on energy? Throw an EDP – emergency dance party! Celebrate your small wins every day, not just on special occasions. Change your mindset from thinking in "I have to" to thinking in "I get to". Finally, acknowledge that you are doing your best – I think that one is very pertinent to what is going on in our world right now. You can check out Marli's presentation slides and others from the conference on the [website](#). (...Scholarship Recipients, continued on page 6...)



(...Scholarship Recipients, continued from page 5...) Another session that stood out was the two-part identifying and eliminating bias in financial aid administration which made you think about what your own biases are in the work we do, how it impacts your treatment of students and how to overcome that. The conference charity partner, Outside In, shared more about their organization and mission and I was amazed to see all the work they are doing in the Portland area to support youth experiencing homelessness. One of the most delightful parts of the conference was having the opportunity to speak with colleagues from across the state that I knew and network with those that I hadn't met yet. I got to catch up with many people and chat about the new changes in our financial aid world. It's always fascinating to me to see how each school handles things a little bit differently. If you haven't had the chance to attend an OASFAA conference, I would highly encourage you to put the 2025 conference on your calendar and apply for a scholarship if you need financial assistance. Thank you again to OASFAA for allowing me to attend this event.

OASFAA VP Reports

Spring cleaning is one of my favorite things to do. A fresh, organized closet not only helps me find things faster but it also helps clear my mind. In cleaning out my mental closet, I found something great hidden in the corner. I found an opportunity to engage departments across campus in the world of financial aid. Over the past six months there has been more communication and collaboration with our DEI, housing and foundation departments. These connections across campus are imperative to the work we do and FAFSA Simplification has ignited an interest from other areas of campus to engage with students and the financial aid office at a new level. In talking with many of you, it appears this engagement is bringing many community colleges together. As we look forward to spring, let's continue to foster these relationships on our campuses so that when the hype of the 2024-25 FAFSA dies down, our new, revived connections continue to grow.



Breana Sylwester, VP 2-yr Public



We hope this message finds you well! We know the lives of financial aid administrators are busy, and we appreciate your time. OASFAA is excited to introduce our new Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Advisory Board! In case you missed our January email message, you can read this [here](#).

What is this group, and what will they be doing?

The primary responsibility of the IDEA Advisory Board is to give input on actions, decisions, and deliberations of the Executive Council and other committees as needed. The IDEA Advisory Board members are highly encouraged to attend Executive Council meetings and split up to serve on various committees to assist in highlighting areas to better achieve IDEA-related goals of the organization and remove barriers for professionals of marginalized communities. The board may also meet separately outside of Executive Council meetings as needed and at the discretion of the IDEA Advocate. (...IDEA, continued

on page 6...)

"I believe education is vital for meaningful change and enjoy being just a small part of the group that helps others learn."
- Layla Solar

Meet some of the current IDEA Advisory Board Members:



Name: Hallie Price-Asadare

Pronouns: she/her/hers

School & Title: Oregon State University, Scholarship Advisor

Why: I am passionate about supporting access to opportunities, especially for populations that have historically been marginalized.

Fun fact: I just met my mother-in-law who flew 14+ hours from Ghana to the Pacific Northwest, and she only speak the Northern Ghanian language, Frafra, but we communicated through my husband translating and lots of nodding and smiles.

Name: Isamar Chavez

Pronouns: she/her/hers/ella

School & Title: Linfield University, Senior Financial Aid Counselor

Why: I decided to serve on the IDEA Advisory Board to work in collaboration with other financial aid administrators around issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion because of the societal and environmental influences and ever-changing context we live, work, and operate in. Access to higher education has always been a challenge for working class, low-income, marginalized communities and continues to be. Even though I am new to the financial aid world, I have learned that as administrators, we serve as liaisons and representatives for the students and communities we are a part of. It is important to invest time, energy, and leadership to continual learning and taking action to provide more equitable service for our students striving to make their higher education journey attainable.

Fun fact: Hip-hop, hiking, and dancing get me through the stressful times.

“It’s important for our students, and even more so for our colleagues, to be actively engaged in making sure we are learning and growing as a field in inclusion, diversity, equity, and access.” - Elizabeth Soto

Name: Jose A. Hernandez

Pronouns: he/him/his

School & Title: Student Success Coach; Oregon Coast Community College

Why: I have decided to serve on this board because my family and I did not know any resources that higher education offered, for I was a first gen middle school, high school, and college graduate. I know that there are still many families that need resources and I want to provide them with as much knowledge and resources as possible.

Fun fact: I won a State Championship in Soccer with Newport High School in 2016, and I am working for the college that I graduated from in 2019. I also love to cook and paint!

Name: Layla Solar

Pronouns: she/her

School & Title: Clatsop Community College, Assistant Director of FA & School Certifying Official (VA Ed Benefits)

Why: Fundamentally, I hold the belief that most individuals want to act in a positive and improving manner. While I'm not oblivious to the fact that this isn't universally true, I am convinced that it is true for most. Through personal experiences, I've come to understand that our actions often stem from ignorance rather than intentional malice. I believe education is vital for

(...IDEA, continued on page 8...)

“Access to higher education has always been a challenge for working class, low-income, marginalized communities and continues to be.” – Isamar Chavez

(...IDEA, continued from page 7...) meaningful change and enjoy being just a small part of the group that helps others learn.

Fun fact: I have officially stepped foot in three different countries (Spain, Portugal & Canada) in the last year, give or take, and only have a passport stamp for a country (Germany) where I never left the airport and touched soil. Actually, I think I have two stamps from Germany (coming and going) and only had to connecting flight. Is that normal!?!? LOL



Name: Elizabeth Soto

Pronouns: she/her/hers

School & Title: Linn-Benton Community College, Financial Aid Advisor

Why: To educate myself and to better support our community.

Fun fact: I enjoy collecting antiques and vintage items. Wall mount telephones and vintage purses are my latest obsessions.

Name: Rylan Wall

Pronouns: he/him/his

School & Title: Oregon State University, Assistant Director

Why: It's important for our students, and even more so for our colleagues, to be actively engaged in making sure we are learning and growing as a field in inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. I am excited to be part of those efforts for OASFAA and make further connections with those involved.

Fun fact: I have three little slinky fuzzi-butt (ferrets) at home!

Name: Sarajane Viemeister (Sara V.)

Pronouns: she/her/hers

School & Title: Columbia Gorge Community College, Financial Aid Coordinator

Why: I feel like it is my responsibility to educate others so that we can end stigmas and bring about more unity and acceptance.

Fun fact: Pretty confident in my music/pop culture trivia skills, and I speak fluent cat.



Volunteer Spotlight: Layla Solar

The Volunteer Spotlight shines on Layla Solar, Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Clatsop Community College in Astoria.

Volunteer Activities with OASFAA: VP 2-yr public (2 terms), IDEA, Communications, Community Partnerships, and Conference Planning committee

How long have you worked in the financial aid field? I have been in higher education for about 14 years now. I think I have been in Financial Aid for about 9 or 10 of those years. I have had the good fortune to do a lot of different jobs within financial aid over the years.

How did you get your start in the industry? My youngest was 6 months old when I started at COCC. It was when enrollment was through the roof and the economy was in the dirt. I started out on the "front line" in the Admissions/Registration office. I think I was in Admissions for about three years when the "customer service/verification" position in financial aid opened. They seemed like a really cool group of people to work with, so I applied. I remember Susan McCampbell being on the hiring committee, this is when SAP went from annual to each term and students were coming to college for a "paycheck." Susan looked at me and said, "Are you sure you want to do this!" I still think it was a sanity check and not a real question. Eventually, they must have thought I was just crazy enough to join the team...and the rest is history! (...Volunteer, continued on page 9...)

(...Volunteer, continued from page 8...) **What is the most rewarding part of your job?** I like the balance of working with numbers/data and students. I love data and running reports and analyzing and all the FUN that goes with it. I am a first-generation student with degree is in Human Services so the ability to help students reach their goals and work through the financial aid process really “gets me up in the morning.” Well, that and a little/lot of coffee and an alarm clock. I absolutely love teaching math to students in terms of how to use a PELL grant to pay for school and show them that they do not need student loans.

Who has been the biggest influence/mentor on you & your career? When I was first hired at COCC in the Admissions Office the person who hired me--Seana Barry. Seana told me that one of the most important things to remember is that the student in front of me was not there because they could figure it out on their own. They were there because they needed help. Maybe they didn't know where to look, what question to ask, or they were just scared. They would not wait in “that” line (remember the ones out your doors and own the hall) if they didn't have to. So, to this day, I try to remember that when I am answering the same question for the 100th time (“where is my refund”). When I do that, it helps remind me that although I have heard this question all...day...long if they knew...they wouldn't be here!



What is/was your favorite volunteer experience? I cannot say that I have a favorite. Each opportunity presents new challenges and opportunities. I think you need to dip your toe in to discover. You will find things that you like, are good at, and bring you joy. You will also find learning opportunities in the things you find may not be a good fit.

What do you like about Oregon? I like the outdoor rec opportunities. I recently bought a book of things to do in Oregon. I had no idea there was so much I did not know. Things close to my house even! I have lived in Oregon for about 40 years and have not even begun to explore some of the natural wonders.

What is your favorite restaurant? I'm not super adventurous when it comes to food, so Red Robin. Love the Whiskey River BBQ Chicken Wrap and Teriyaki Chicken Sandwich.

What was the last book you read? I am actually about two-thirds of the way through “Oath and Honor” by Liz Cheney. It was recommended by a family member. Very interesting!

Do you have any advice for your fellow financial aid administrators? Hang in there and find the humor in this (if there is any). We have no control over the current FAFSA Simplification fiasco. Do your best but don't lose sleep. Life is too short to take this home with you at night or on the weekends. Do your best, help your students, but don't forget to help yourself!

If you were not in the financial aid industry, what would you be doing now? Easy...I would be “batboy” for the Seattle Mariners, or, an official scorekeeper. Is being a season ticket holder a job? If so, that would be a good job, but I think I have to pay instead of getting paid!



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

The Watercooler

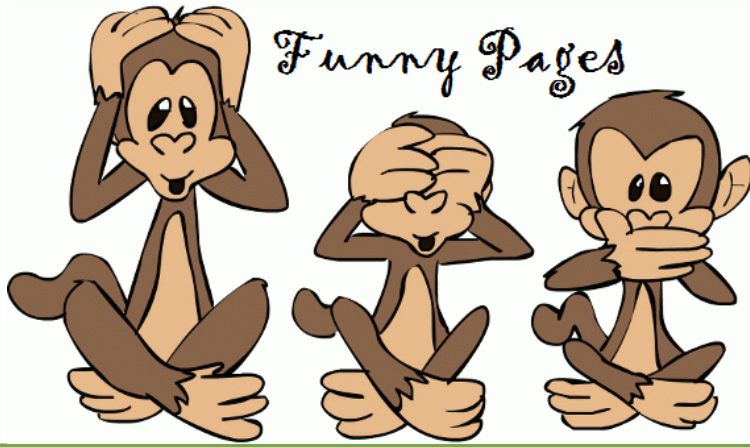
Anel Venegas-Trujillo of OSAC was promoted to Oregon Teachers Scholarships Coordinator

Amy Holland rejoined OSAC as a Scholarship Portfolio Coordinator

Danny Bailey joins OSU as a Scholarship Advisor

Tanya Salas-Gonzalez re-joined Rogue Community College as a 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



Funny Pages

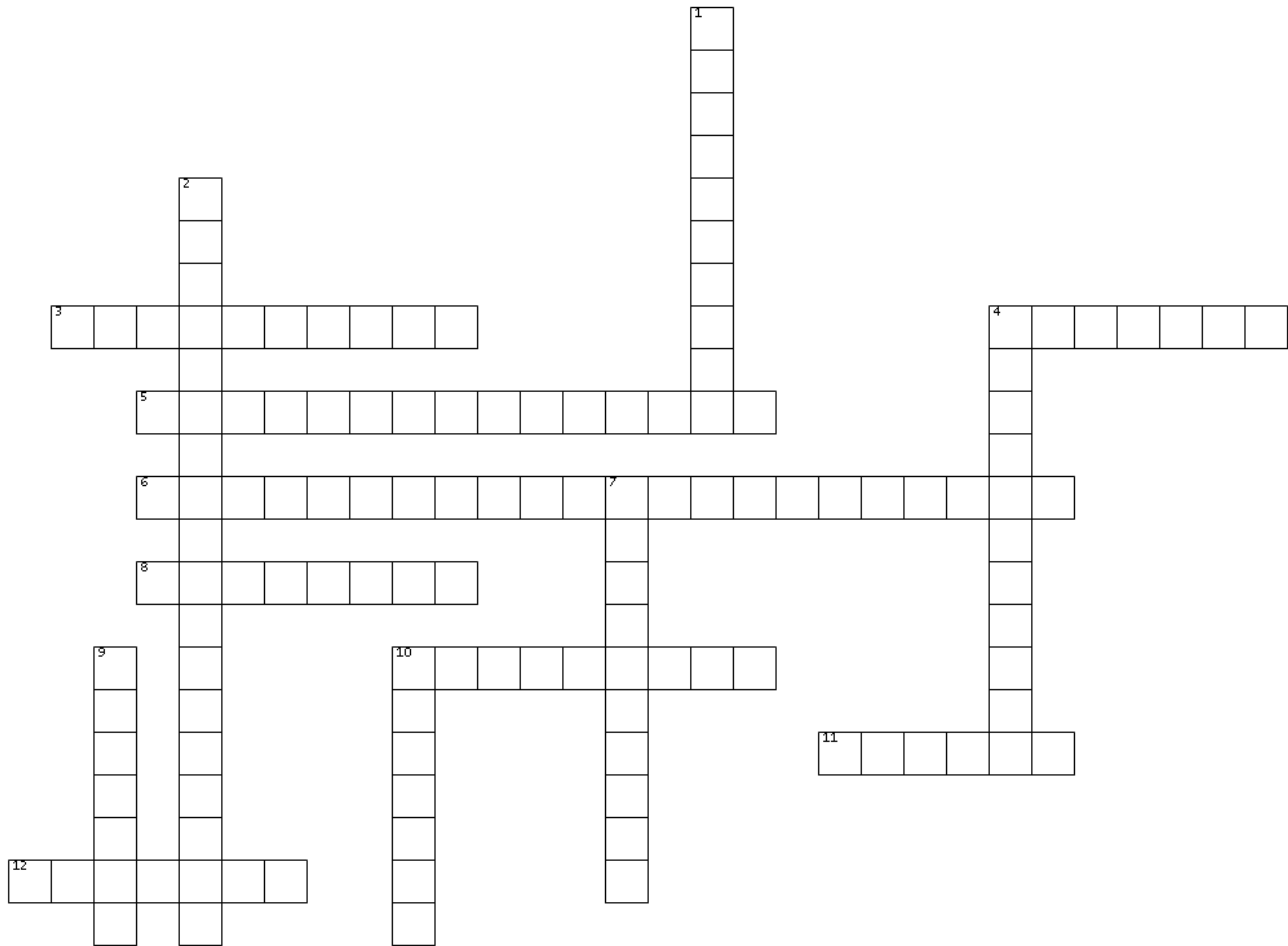
“My patience is like a gift card – not sure how much is left on it but we can try!”

“Can we please pass a FAFSA Pronunciation Act?!”

“Rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic is now my favorite description of the last year.”

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

Spring Crossword – FAFSA Fun



ACROSS

3. NASFAA national chair (2 wds)
4. all FAFSA Contributors must provide ___
5. 24-25 replacement for “EFC” (3 wds)
6. 24-25 replacement for “SAR” (3 wds)
8. OASFAA president (2 wds)
10. WASFAA president Amanda
11. Better FAFSA Better ___
12. NASFAA president Justin who testified on the FAFSA Fail

DOWN

1. 24-25 replacement for “household size”
2. 24-25 replacement for IRS DRT (3 wds)
4. 24-25 replacement for FAFSA “parent”
7. 24-25 FAFSA went live in Dec 2023 as a “___” (2 wds)
9. FSA Chief Operating Officer Rich
10. FSA Secretary of Education Miguel

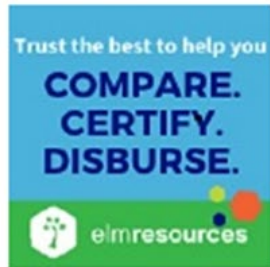
**Interested in volunteering for OASFAA?
Contact a committee chair below...**

2024 Committee Chairs

Annual Conference	Rebecca Lewis Emory Spence Shauna Wing	FA 101/201	Kathy Campbell Kyna Burgett
Archives	Shauna Stevens	Funds Development	Suzie Petersen
Communications	Frankie Everett	Legislative	Griffin Shaulis
Community Partnership	Jenn Satalino Breana Sylwester	Membership	Hallie Price-Asadare
Corporate Liaison	Greg Kerr	OSAC Liaison	Erin Rau
		Site Selection	Carlos Villarroel
		Technology	Frankie Everett
		Volunteer Coordinator	Ingrid Baker

Are you hiring?
Post your vacancy at www.oasfaaonline.org.

A big THANK YOU to our corporate partners!



∞ OASFAA Newsletter Editorial Staff:

Frankie Everett ∞ Ashley Coleman ∞ Edie O'Neil ∞ Layla Solar ∞ Anny Sumner ∞

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.