

Stressed, Pressed and Second-Guessing

IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access)

How do imposter syndrome, implicit bias and burnout interplay and what impact does it have on the professional lives of higher education administrators? This session explores the concept of imposter syndrome, once described as “intellectual phoniness” as well as the feelings of exhaustion and burnout widely reported in many industries, including our own, with a marked increase in a post-covid (or is it simply FAFSA simplification) world. This session aims to break down some of the common causes and beliefs about imposter syndrome and burnout and what we can do to take care of ourselves and build up others so that we can continue to be effective in our jobs. Our students need us to be healthy, present, knowledgeable, realistic and self-confident and we aim to equip attendees to be more self-aware about their professional presentation of self.

Scholarship 101

Best Practices

This presentation will cover when to start the scholarship search, how to leverage student characteristics in the scholarship search, best search strategies, and how to create an application materials packet. With these resources and tips in mind, you can best advise students when they come into your office for scholarship-related questions!

Financial Aid Resources for Foster Youth

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Review of grant eligibility requirements, policies, and procedures for programs such as Chafee Grant, Tuition Fee Waiver, and scholarships for current and former foster care youth.

Using School Resources to Improve Staff Training & Documentation

Best Practices

With all the changes in the financial aid world, it is perhaps even more crucial to ensure your staff receive effective training and have easily accessible information when they need it. Do you need to invest in expensive software or just create a massive text file? We hope not! We will explore some of these efforts in the OSU Office of Financial Aid, notably the use of existing university systems to create support scaffolding for training and documentation. In particular, we will highlight the use of Canvas and the wiki functionalities of Microsoft SharePoint, but some of these lessons may be applicable to the LMS and other systems at your institution.

Banner Super User Working Group

Networking and Community Building

This session is designed to share best practices with other Banner schools. There will not be a presentation, but rather a collaboration session between FA offices to share best practices and tips and tricks as it relates to processing financial aid. Bring your computer and questions and let's help each other!

Professionals of Color Affinity Group

Networking and Community Building

Come connect with your fellow professionals of color! This affinity group will provide folks a chance to connect with others with similar experiences, share their frustrations and joys, and see how you can support one another.

LGBTQIA+ Professionals Affinity Group

Networking and Community Building

Come connect with your fellow professionals on the rainbow spectrum! This affinity group will provide folks a chance to connect with others with similar experiences, share their frustrations and joys, and see how you can support one another.

New Professionals Affinity Group

Networking and Community Building

Have you been in financial aid for less than 5 years? Are you still trying to figure out how FVT/GE works? Come share the questions you have, learn about resources to support yourself, and find community amongst other financial aid newcomers!

Volunteering with OASFAA

Networking and Community Building

Learn more about the different opportunities OASFAA offers and how volunteers help make them all possible! Hear from others who have volunteered about their experiences and find out how you can contribute to improving OASFAA!

OSAC Disbursement Reporting Crash Course

Federal and State Updates

State disbursement reporting varies by program. We will provide a training program for new users and a refresher for current users. We will share best practices and tips.

Advocacy 101

Best Practices

Do you want to learn more about how to grease the wheels of bureaucracy so you can better support your students and coworkers? Come learn some of the basics of how you can advocate for change as an individual and as a part of a community like OASFAA. You'll also be able to discuss some the changes you want to work towards and find support for your next steps!

Understanding Credit

Financial Literacy

Understanding how credit works and building a responsible credit history early on is essential to building a strong credit score. This session will review the five primary factors considered in your credit score and discuss best practices for building and managing credit. You'll learn more about FICO® Scores, credit cards, and credit reports.

Lighting Up Your Communication with the DISC Assessment

Networking and Community Building

This session will light up how self-assessment with the DiSC tool can improve your approach to communication and work relationships. If you plan to attend this session, please complete your online free assessment (10 minutes) at <https://discpersonalitytesting.com> and download your free assessment for this session.

Undocumented Students and State Eligibility

IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access)

Review Tuition Equity requirements and the various state grant and scholarship programs available to undocumented and DACA students.

Exceptional Customer Service in the 21st Century

Best Practices

All of us know what good service is. We know the goal is to meet a customer's needs, and what it feels like to be a satisfied customer. But oftentimes, something happens when we go to work, and our customer service becomes a job instead of a common practice or discipline. Whether you are interacting with a student, parent or executive management, these 8 essential tips can make you comfortable and capable of providing an exceptional customer service experience.

CAFE Show and Tell

Financial Literacy

As a land grant institution, we help students every day from all over Oregon with their plans for paying for college. We've created a process and worksheet that guides students through the steps of assessing direct expenses, resources, and seeing if there are gaps in funding. Along the way we explain how billing works, and what to do if there is a funding gap. We would like to share this resource to help you in your own conversations with students. You can adapt it to your own school and needs. Join us for this session as we explore our approach in guiding students through paying for college planning, comparing scenarios, important educational opportunities, and helping students be proactive with their planning. We want you to take what may be helpful for you and leave the rest!

Internal and External Threats Facing Title IV Institutions

Federal and State Updates

In this session, the OIG will share its background and mission and why Title IV Institutions are targets of fraud. We will provide case studies and examples of emerging fraud and threat cases. We will also share how to report fraud if you suspect it on your campus.

Shining a Light on Efficiency: Transforming Loan Processing Through Automation

Best Practices

Unfortunately, with the steady increase in both the cost of education and living expenses, the need for student loans is not going away. Please join us as we explore how Oregon State University is tackling these processing challenges through automation and process design. We will examine both OSU's Direct Loan and Private/Alternative Loan processes.

Legislative Listening Session

Federal and State Updates

This session provides an opportunity for the financial aid community to share ideas from the field on program, law, or rule changes to enhance student aid access with OSAC.

Why You Need Friends on Campus

Networking and Community Building

Financial Aid doesn't exist in a vacuum. You need contacts in pretty much every other area of campus. Let's have a discussion about the whys, whos and hows.

OSAC Tech Updates

Federal and State Updates

OSAC has begun the process of replacing the FAMIS system. We would like to share recent developments and connect with users of the FAMIS systems to hear what works well and what needs improvements. Please join for updates on our new timeline and brainstorming ideas.

Gap Funding Options

Financial Literacy

Many students and families will consider financing a portion of their college education. This session will focus on encouraging responsible borrowing and what students and families can do to find the right solution for their borrowing needs, as well as exploring other alternative funding options.

2025-26 FAFSA Updates

Federal and State Updates

This session will provide a walkthrough of the 2025-26 FAFSA updates that the DOE plans to make. Drawing from resources by NASFAA and FSA, this session will help you prepare for what's to come in the next aid cycle.

Giving Your Operational Calendar the Spotlight

Best Practices

This session will bring into focus the importance of developing an operational calendar. We will shine a light on tips and templates to help you get started in selecting the right calendar format for your school and how to maintain your existing calendar. Join us as we help you light the path to an effective operational calendar.

Creating Our Culture

Networking and Community Building

FA Staff from the University of Oregon and Lane Community College will share ideas of what they have done to create a welcoming and even fun environment in their departments. Come and hear what has worked well and share other ideas you have brought to your tams.

Ready, Set, Review! Navigating Federal Program Reviews with Confidence

Best Practices

Program reviews can be intimidating, especially when you don't know what to expect. Having just gone through one this last year, this session will help you learn about what they're going to ask for, what the process looks like, and some tips for preparing for when it comes.

Neurodivergence in the Workplace

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Join us for a panel discussion from the Portland Community College financial aid office. Neurodivergence will be covered in detail, including defining and identifying neurodivergent individuals, and some of their challenges and strengths. We will also provide resources that you can use for your office. The objective is to raise awareness and provide help for both neurodivergent thinkers and neurotypical individuals.

DPP and OFAX Overview

Best Practices

This breakout session will review the OSAC OFAX Partner Portal and provide for open discussion on compliance concerns and best practices for concurrently enrolled students and strategies for streamlining processes.

Sector Connections - Two Year Public

Networking and Community Building

Join us for an exclusive opportunity to connect with the Vice Presidents of your segmental sections. This session offers a relaxed environment for networking, sharing experiences, and gaining valuable updates on OASFAA's latest initiatives. Whether you're seeking insights on the current state of financial aid or simply looking to meet fellow professionals in your segment, this session is designed to foster community and collaboration. Don't miss out on this chance to engage with key leaders and stay informed on the latest OASFAA developments!

Sector Connections - Four Year Public

Networking and Community Building

Join us for an exclusive opportunity to connect with the Vice Presidents of your segmental sections. This session offers a relaxed environment for networking, sharing experiences, and gaining valuable updates on OASFAA's latest initiatives. Whether you're seeking insights on the current state of financial aid or simply looking to meet fellow professionals in your segment, this session is designed to foster community and collaboration. Don't miss out on this chance to engage with key leaders and stay informed on the latest OASFAA developments!

Sector Connections - Independent

Networking and Community Building

Join us for an exclusive opportunity to connect with the Vice Presidents of your segmental sections. This session offers a relaxed environment for networking, sharing experiences, and gaining valuable updates on OASFAA's latest initiatives. Whether you're seeking insights on the current state of financial aid or simply looking to meet fellow professionals in your segment, this session is designed to foster community and collaboration. Don't miss out on this chance to engage with key leaders and stay informed on the latest OASFAA developments!

Sector Connections - Proprietary

Networking and Community Building

Join us for an exclusive opportunity to connect with the Vice Presidents of your segmental sections. This session offers a relaxed environment for networking, sharing experiences, and gaining valuable updates on OASFAA's latest initiatives. Whether you're seeking insights on the current state of financial aid or simply looking to meet fellow professionals in your segment, this session is designed to foster community and collaboration. Don't miss out on this chance to engage with key leaders and stay informed on the latest OASFAA developments!