



# OASFAA NEWSLETTER

A publication of the Oregon Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

FALL 2025

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Congrats, OASFAA — we've made it to the final quarter of 2025!**

The year so far has offered me so many meaningful opportunities to connect with people as OASFAA President. In May, I attended WASFAA's Annual Conference in beautiful Honolulu, Hawai'i. The theme, *Huliau: To think of or recall the past to inform our present/future*, was brought to life in a thoughtfully curated program infused with Hawaiian culture and a deep sense of purpose. It was a powerful reminder of the importance of knowing who we are and why this work matters.



In early June, I joined the faculty for WASFAA's Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute, *The Wild World of Financial Aid*, hosted at San Diego University. With three unique tracks tailored to support professionals at every stage of their careers, the Institute offered a balance of soft skills, professional development, and technical training, all delivered by seasoned experts and emerging leaders from across our region. It was inspiring to see so many FAAs connect over shared experiences and a common commitment to our field. I also participated in WASFAA's Transition Meeting, where incoming and outgoing Executive Council members gathered. It's been a great opportunity to connect with other state presidents the last few months to hear how other state organizations are faring in these uncertain times.

In late June, NASFAA's Annual Conference brought over 35 Oregon FAAs to Anaheim, CA. I had the chance to connect with many of you, and meet a few of you for the very first time! The agenda was packed with insightful sessions, including several featuring ED representatives and best practices shared by peers across the country. One of the standout moments was incoming NASFAA President & CEO Melanie Storey's candid conversation with the legendary LeVar Burton. It was honest, moving, and yes — more than a few of us cried.

In September and October, I hosted two OASFAA happy hours, one in Southern Oregon and one in the middle (Corvallis). It was nice to spend time with FAAs from different parts of the state who I often only see at the annual conference. *(President...cont on page 6...)*

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(President...continued from page 1...) I unfortunately had to cancel the two northern Oregon events due to illness, but the good news is they have been rescheduled!

- Tuesday, December 2, 4:30 – 7pm, Produce Row, SE Portland
- Tuesday, December 9, 4:30 – 7pm, Brix Tavern, Tualatin

If you're in the Tualatin or Portland area, please be sure to [RSVP here!](#) I hope to see many of you at one (or both!) events.

Finally, I hope to see you all at our Annual Conference, January 28-30, at Salishan Coastal Lodge. Our Conference Committee is working diligently to put together another fantastic event and it is shaping up to be a good one! Keep an eye out for more information about this year's Conference!



In some ways, it feels like this year has flown by... and in other ways, I can't believe the last six months didn't actually last six *years*. Updates continue to trickle out from Washington, D.C. and the Department of Education, often raising more questions than they answer. In the months ahead, I know I'll be leaning heavily on our incredible network of colleagues to help make sense of the changes and their impact on our offices and the work we do every day.

Moving into this darker season, with commutes to and from work in the dark, I've found myself energized and inspired by the connections, conversations, and shared commitment I witness across our profession. These experiences reaffirm the strength of our community and the value of our collective efforts, especially at a time of so much uncertainty. I'm so thankful for this community of professionals and how grounding a validating it is when we come together.

Thank you for the incredible work you do and for the unique gifts you bring to our profession. Our students, institutions, and communities are better because of you, and OASFAA is stronger because of your dedication.

With appreciation,  
**Debbie O'Dea**  
**OASFAA President**

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## **Join us at Salishan for the 2026 OASFAA Annual Conference!**

We're excited to announce the [2026 OASFAA Annual Conference](#), taking place **January 28–30, 2026**, at the beautiful **Salishan Coastal Lodge** in Gleneden Beach, Oregon. This annual gathering brings together Oregon's student financial aid professionals for learning, collaboration, and community building.

**OASFAA**



**NEVER SAYS DIE  
WE'RE ON THIS TREASURE  
HUNT TOGETHER**

**Registration will be opening soon — stay tuned!**

We are *still seeking session proposals* and encourage you to share your expertise. Submit your proposal [here](#).

This year, we're proud to support **Lincoln County Food Share** as our conference charity, helping strengthen local food security and support families in our coastal communities.

We look forward to seeing you at Salishan for three days of connection, development, and shared purpose!

Your Co-Chairs,  
**Sauna Wing, Victoria Mavricakis, & Greg Kerr**



## **FA 101/201**

We held two FA 101/201 training events in November. Rogue Community College hosted the first one on November 13<sup>th</sup> and Chemeketa Community College hosted the second one on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Both were very successful. We started with a General session Federal Financial Aid Updates. FA 101 topics were What is Title IV aid and how does a student qualify, Application Process overview, Campus-Based Programs and State of Oregon Programs. FA 201 topics were Collaborating with other offices and departments, Professional Judgment, Satisfactory Academic Progress and Financial Wellness.

The presenters were Karen Ash, Kyna Burgett, Kathy Campbell, Frankie Everett, Peter Goss, Chloe Hays, Eli Herr and Tennille Wait.

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## **Honoring Our Retirees – Help Us Celebrate!**

Do you know an OASFAA member or Affiliate member who has retired or is planning to retire this year? If so, we want to hear from you!

OASFAA would like to recognize and celebrate these individuals at the upcoming Annual Conference to honor their dedication and lasting contributions to the financial aid profession.

If you or someone in your office is retiring, please send their name and details to Past President Karen Ash at [ashk@linnbenton.edu](mailto:ashk@linnbenton.edu). Thank you for helping us show our appreciation for those who have given so much to our community!

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## **NASFAA National Conference**

The 2026 NASFAA National Conference will take place both virtually and in-person this year!



- June 29-July 2 – In-person at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD
- July 13-17 – Virtual Conference

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

## State Budget Cuts Imminent

Submitted by Erin Rau, HECC

I thought folks might be interested in to know that all state agencies have been asked to provide a list of 2.5% and 5% budget reduction options for the Legislature to consider because Oregon's recent economic forecast projects the revenue coming into the state from the federal government, state income taxes, Lottery proceeds, and other sources will not be adequate to fund the budgets that were passed last session. This was prior to the economic forecast released this week, which does look better than the previous forecast. HECC provided their recommendations to the legislature earlier this week. It is not a recommendation, or plan, but is in response to very specific questions from the Legislature. There will be more discussions, and other work before decisions are made in the February session.

Here is a related article: [Oregon legislators hear the 'least worst options' for possible state education agency cuts - OPB](#)



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

### The Watercooler

**Brandon Blum** and **Emma Rollo** join the University of Oregon as Financial Aid Counselors!

**Emily Green** was promoted to Assistant Director of Financial Aid Counseling at George Fox University!

**Eric Perez**, Senior Financial Aid Counselor & VA Certifying Official at University of Portland, is headed in a new direction, accepting a position in Operations at a biotech company in Spokane. He was also married on August 2<sup>nd</sup>! Best wishes to Eric in his new endeavors!

**Kelly Helyer**, Financial Aid Director at WOU, hit her 10-year WOU Work-iversary in May. Congratulations, Kella! She also achieved her NASFAA FAAC this year, too!

**Sami Francis** is the new Assistant Financial Aid Director at Umpqua Community College!

**Shauna Wing** joined Portland Community College in March as their newest Associate Director!

WOU Welcomes **Stevie Jennings**, Assistant Director of Technology, and **Nina Martinez**, Assistant

Director of Scholarships!

**Tennille Wait** was promoted to Assistant Director of the Financial Wellness Center at the University of Oregon!

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

## SAVE THE DATE

1.28-1.30 – OASFAA Annual Conference (Gleneden Beach)

2.8-2.11 – NASFAA Leadership & Legislative Expo (DC)

5.18-5.20 – WASFAA Annual Conference (Rancho Mirage, CA)

6.8-6.12 – WASFAA Summer Institute (Location TBD)

6.29-7.2 – NASFAA Conference (National Harbor, MD)

7.13-7.17 – NASFAA Virtual Conference

Check the OASFAA calendar for webinars & training events available to our membership at:

[www.oasfaaonline.org](http://www.oasfaaonline.org)



## 26-27 OASFAA Elections – Meet the Candidates!

The ballot for OASFAA Executive Council is open for voting through Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Voting is limited to all financial aid staff at post-secondary institutions in Oregon. Candidate bios & statements can be found online [HERE](#).

### PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATE:



**Elijah Herr**  
Director of Financial Aid & Scholarships  
Oregon Health & Science University



### SECRETARY CANDIDATES:



**Ingrid Baker**  
Associate Director of Systems &  
Compliance  
Pacific University



**Shauna Stevens**  
Assistant Director of  
Scholarships  
University of Oregon

### VICE PRESIDENT – 4-YEAR PUBLIC CANDIDATES:



**Jennifer Birt**  
Assistant Director of Financial Aid  
Western Oregon University



**Rob Keever**  
Financial Aid Counselor &  
Processor  
Southern Oregon University

### VICE PRESIDENT – 2-YEAR PUBLIC CANDIDATES:



**Antonio Castellanos**  
Bilingual Financial Aid Advisor  
Portland Community College



**Amanda Vargas**  
Director of Financial Aid  
Klamath Community College

## VICE PRESIDENT – PRIVATE CANDIDATES:



**Aaron Geist**  
Director of Financial Aid Counseling  
George Fox University



**Miranda Robertson**  
Assistant Director of Financial  
Aid  
University of Portland

## VICE PRESIDENT – PROPRIETARY CANDIDATE:



**Shelle Riehl**  
Senior Financial Aid Officer  
Sumner College



“If you guys give me another chance I will get up early in the morning to eat breakfast because it’s the most important meal of the day.”

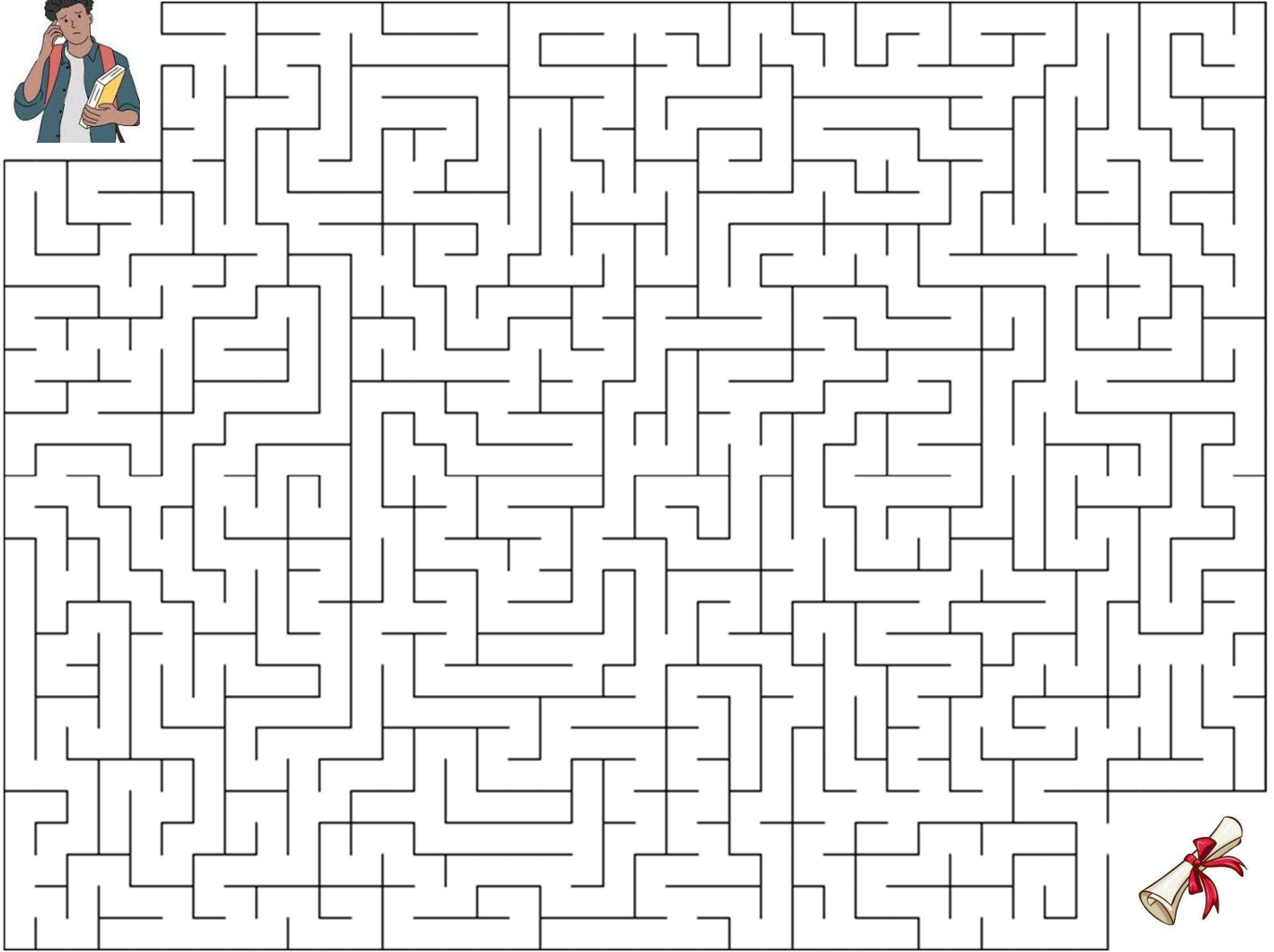
“Student going to the bathroom while on the phone with me. Yep, double flush y’all...”

“Prior student from 2016 calls Financial Aid confused and irritated that he can’t log into his student portal while living in Montana & attending an online culinary school in Tennessee.”

Got one to share? Send it to [feverett@roquecc.edu](mailto:feverett@roquecc.edu). All submissions will be published anonymously.



## Fall Puzzle Maze



**Update your  
volunteer preferences  
[here!](#)**

**\*\* Get involved \*\* Be a leader in Oregon financial aid \*\* Bring fresh ideas \*\***

**\*\* Share your skills & passions \*\* Chair a committee \*\* Serve on a committee \*\***

**\*\* There's something for everyone! \*\***

## THANK YOU TO OUR OASFAA SPONSORS!



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

### 2025 Committee Chairs

Annual Conference	<a href="#">Shauna Wing</a> <a href="#">Victoria Mavricakis</a> <a href="#">Greg Kerr</a>	FA 101/201	<a href="#">Kathy Campbell</a> <a href="#">Kyna Burgett</a>
Archives	<a href="#">Shauna Stevens</a>	Funds Development	<a href="#">Suzie Petersen</a>
Communications	<a href="#">Frankie Everett</a>	Legislative	<a href="#">Griffin Shaulis</a>
Community Partnership	<a href="#">Jenn Satalino</a> <a href="#">Breana Sylwester</a>	Membership	<a href="#">Layla Solar</a>
Corporate Liaison	<a href="#">Holly Johnson</a>	OSAC Liaison	<a href="#">Erin Rau</a>
IDEA	<a href="#">Emory Spence</a>	Site Selection	<a href="#">Carlos Villarroel</a>
		Technology	<a href="#">Frankie Everett</a>
		Volunteer Coordinator	<a href="#">Ingrid Baker</a>

### *OASFAA Newsletter Editorial Staff:*

*☞ Frankie Everett ☞ Ashley Coleman ☞ 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.*