

NOV 2022

CAFAA NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Colorado Association of Financial Aid Administrators

Taking Care of Business

LINDSEY CAMPBELL - CAFAA PRESIDENT

Since our transition in May the 2022 CAFAA Board has been very busy!

To nobody's surprise the COVID pandemic has had a huge affect on our association. We lost members, lost our ability to meet in person, and the Great Resignation continues to impact all of us.

CAFAA is an association made of up of institutions and individual members from across the state of Colorado and as members The Board wants to make sure we are giving back to you in ways that benefit you the most!

One of the opportunities I am very excited to announce is the recently approved vote by The Board to create scholarship opportunities for CAFAA members to participate in the annual professional development opportunities, hosted by our regional association the Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (RMASFAA). These opportunities along with our annual conference will help the professional development of the members of CAFAA and our state as a whole. The Scholarship criteria is still being developed and we will release more details at our conference in May!

Thank you for all you do for our state, we are excited to see where the year takes us!



LINDSEY CAMPBELL

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Updating the Strategic Plan

BY HOLLY DAUGHERTY-CAFAA COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

Like many of us emerging from mandatory town closures and remote work, after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic CAFAA's Strategic Plan was in need of a revamp.

In September of 2022 members of the Strategic Plan Sub-Committee evaluated the current strategic plan and rewrote the plan to include three goals for the association. These goals align with the associations mission to connect Financial Aid Administrators with resources and support to help make higher education more accessible for students.



The new member-centered focus helps to elevate the benefit of membership in the association while creating more individual opportunities that will benefit the association..

Goals for the updated Strategic plan include:

- Goal 1: Continuously enhance and highlight the value of a CAFAA Membership
- Goal 2: Provide Professional Development opportunities for members to enhance involvement, and learning opportunities.
- Goal 3: Advocate for the financial aid community across the State of Colorado

The new strategic plan was voted on and approved by the board at the Fall quarterly meeting held on November 4th.

The fully updated plan will be available on the CAFAA website soon and will be sent to all members within the next month.

A wise person once said...

THE STRENGTH OF THE TEAM IS EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER. THE STRENGTH OF EACH MEMBER IS THE TEAM.

~PHIL JACKSON





Annual Conference

MAY 3-5, 2023
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO
STEAMBOAT GRAND HOTEL

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Full Steam Ahead...

BY THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The Conference Committee is moving Full Steam Ahead in their plans for the Annual Spring CAFAA Conference.

The 2023 conference will be held in gorgeous Steamboat Springs, Colorado May 3-5, 2023, at the Steamboat Grand Hotel.

This will be CAFAA's 54th conference! The conference is a great opportunity for professional development and networking opportunities for the transfer of knowledge and collaboration between Financial Aid administrators, institutions, and service

providers across Colorado.

Along with professional development opportunities the conference is also a great time to have some fun and meet new people! Evening entertainment will be provided along with some opportunities to explore the surrounding area.

Conference attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in the annual philanthropic silent auction. Proceeds will be donated to a non-profit organization in the Steamboat Springs area. The planning committee will be selecting the recipient non-profit later this month.



Conference Opportunities:

- **Donate Silent Auction Items:** The committee is seeking items to include in our silent auction. Items can include event tickets, gift cards, artisan items, etc. Another great opportunity to donate is to have your team donate smaller items (less than \$10 ea.) to create a themed gift basket (i.e. theme cooking: kitchen utensils, Colorado themed cookbooks, pot holders, etc).
- **Session Presenters:** Are you or someone you know interested in presenting?! We are looking for presenters to host various sessions throughout the conference. Topics are determined by the presenter and can include Financial Aid Topics, Professional Development, and Self Care to name just a few.
- **Conference Volunteers:** No great event would be complete without the help of volunteers like you! There will be opportunities to help with check-in, set-up, and many other tasks during the event in May.

Full details for the conference will be posted on the CAFAA website by February 2023.

Questions or to volunteer with the conference contact: Karen Tran, Conference Chair karen.tran@rrcc.edu

Institution Spotlight

BY COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY FIN AID TEAM

Did you know that FAFSA opened on October 1st?! Of course, you did...Since the FAFSA opened financial aid offices across the state have played host to various FAFSA centered events helping students and their families complete their FAFSA.

Between Oct 1 and Nov 30, the Financial Aid Team at Colorado Mesa University has hosted 26 regional events all over the Western Slope!



CMU Financial Aid Team Outing May, 2022 Walking Alpacas

RMAFSA Is Coming

BY RMAFSA CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

We are pleased to announce the 2023 RMAFSA conference will be held in beautiful Fort Collins, October 8-11, 2023!

It takes a village to coordinate, prepare and deliver a high-quality conference so we NEED YOU!! No experience required. All you need is the desire to work as a team and pride in producing a great conference. C'mon Colorado let's show them what we got!

If you are interested, please reach out to:

- Jill Robertson: jirRobert@mines.edu
- Joe Donlay: joe.donlay@colostate.edu



Want to be included in our Institution Spotlight?

EMAIL HOLLY DAUGHERTY
HDAUGHERTY@COLORADOMESA.EDU

CAFAA COMMUNICATION
CHAIR & HISTORIAN



Sector Shout Out

BY VERONICA VALLES, 4-YEAR PRIVATE REP

I am honored to serve at CAFAA as the 4-year private rep for the second year. As a board member, CAFAA has given me the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people from other institutions and organizations. An opportunity I wouldn't have had if I had not joined last year. I hope I continue having the privilege of meeting and working with many other financial aid administrators from other institutions across Colorado, and bring new ideas to the board that can benefit this association.



VERONICA VALLES

As many of us are aware, private colleges and universities are faced today with multiple challenges, including enrollment declines, rising tuition costs, student loan debt, and businesses that are offering alternative degree programs to their employees. Institutions across the state are also experiencing high employee turnover, new state and federal regulations, and state funds that are more difficult to manage.

But, this is not the first time higher education face such threats. During the Civil War, many men left their homes to fight in the battle. During World War I and World War II, many universities were disrupted as they participated in the war effort. During the 1970's, universities and colleges faced campus protests over the Vietnam War, free speech, civil rights and gender equality. These unfortunate events also opened new opportunities for students who could not access college at the time.

This year, the threats are many and it feels different, especially in the private sector. As I reflect on these threats and opportunities, I want to invite you to consider engaging fully with CAFAA this year. That is what is so great about coming together to try to find solutions to better navigate the complexities of the financial aid world. It gives us the chance to impact our community and students from all different backgrounds.

Thank you for all you do to support our students and I hope to see many of you at our next annual CAFAA conference!

Congratulations RMAASFAA 2022 Leadership Pipeline Graduate

JANELLE COOK
DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL AID
COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE



EVENTS, UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

To have your event or announcement included please email hdaugherty@coloradomesa.edu

Time Warp

HOLLY DAUGHERTY - CAFAA HISTORIAN

We have a wonderful archive for CAFAA, our most memorable events, and cherished members past and present. However, we need you and your financial aid friend's help on making sure we know who is who and what is going on in these photos.

Please take a moment to help me in identifying some of these CAFAA members, events and possible dates by completing this online form:

<https://forms.gle/2rgarEQkNJMUN3Wd8>



Upcoming Events:

Final Call for CAFAA
Presenters
MARCH 15

CAFFA Spring Conference
Steamboat Springs, CO
MAY 3-5

Members

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY - AIMS COMMUNITY COLLEGE - ARAPAHOE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - BEL-RAE INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL TECHNOLOGY - CAMPUSLOGIC - CITIZENS ONE STUDENT LOANS - CO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION - COLLEGE AVE. STUDENT LOANS - COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY - COLORADO COLLEGE - COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEMS - COLORADO GEARUP - COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY - COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE - COLORADO NORTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE - COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES - COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, FORT COLLINS - COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA - COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER - CREDIBLE - DENVER SEMINARY - DISCOVER STUDENT LOANS - EARNEST - ELM RESOURCES - FORT LEWIS COLLEGE - FRONT RANGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - FUNDING U - IRON BRIDGE RESOURCES - LATIN AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION - METRO STATE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER - MPOWER FINANCING - NELNET - NORTHEASTERN JUNIOR COLLEGE - PAUL MITCHELL THE SCHOOL DENVER - PIKES PEAK COMMUNITY COLLEGE - PLATT COLLEGE - PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE - RED ROCKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE - REGIS UNIVERSITY - ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN - SALLIE MAE - SCHOLARNET - SOFI - TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES - TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE - UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER - UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, COLORADO SPRINGS - UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, DENVER - UNIVERSITY OF DENVER - UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO - WESTERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY

Membership renewals will open January, 2023

Be sure to update your institution/organization's roster to include all active members.

We Want to Hear From You

Our Communications Committee is working hard on getting you up to date information. We will be updating our social media channels, website and blogs in the near future. If you have an idea for content we would love to hear from you:

- Holly Daugherty, Chair: hdaugherty@coloradomesa.edu
- Veronica Valles, Co-Chair: vvalles@regis.edu

Newsletter updates, including spotlight sections and upcoming events, must be submitted no later than the 15th of each month to be included in the following monthly newsletter