Fostering the Future

KENNEDY EVANS - CDHE

The Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) is excited to highlight two amazing scholarship opportunities for students who were previously in the foster care system!

The first, the Education Training Voucher program, is a federally funded program administered by the CCDHE with the guidance of the Colorado Department of Human Services to provide funding and support for post-secondary education. Students can be awarded up to $5,000 a year, and there are no stipulations on whether a student attends a public or private institution, so long as it is an accredited program. This program was formerly managed by Foster Care to Success and was brought into CDHE this Fall.

The second, the Foster Youth Financial Assistance Program (FYFAP or Senate Bill 22-008), is a new state program that requires that all public higher education institutions provide Colorado resident students with financial assistance for the remaining balance of the student's total cost of attendance over the amount of any private, state, or federal financial assistance received by the student. These costs are split, with 50% of the cost being covered by the institution and 50% being covered by the state.

To learn more about both programs, visit the CDHE website via the following link: Foster Youth Postsecondary Education Programs and Services | Higher Education (colorado.gov).

Continued Pg. 2
Coming Soon...CAFAA Membership Renewal

TRACY CRAVEN - MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

CAFAA membership renewal is right around the corner! In January you can begin to update your membership rosters and pay your CAFAA membership dues.

With the great resignation affecting all of us, it is important that our association has your help with maintaining the most up to date membership information. This is how we communicate to institutions, service providers, and individuals across the state. Completing your membership renewal early also allows you to be on track to register for the annual conference and receive timely updates from the association.

- Jan - Online membership renewal begins
- Feb - Early Bird Conference Registration opens
- March - Early Bird Registration closes
- April - Conference registration closes
- May - Annual Conference

If you need assistance in updating your institution’s information, please contact Tracy Craven, Membership Chair - tcraven@rmcad.edu

For questions, students can contact fcnavigator@dhe.state.co.us to get connected to their foster care navigator. Financial aid directors, please email fosterfinaid@dhe.state.co.us for programmatic questions.

A wise person once said...

THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE BEAUTY OF THEIR DREAMS.

~ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
SAI What?!

HOLLY DAUGHERTY- COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR & HISTORIAN

Starting the 2024-2025 Award year, the FAFSA Simplification Act will expand the Federal Pell Grant to more students. It will link eligibility to family size and the federal poverty level. So exactly, how simple is FAFSA simplification and what the heck is SAI?!

Over the course of this last two award years, we have seen steps towards the completion of the 2020 FAFSA Simplification Act. Questions on the form have been removed and qualifications for certain types of aid have been adjusted but, in 2024-2025, the largest change of turning the current EFC into the new Student Aid Index (SAI) will take place. The change from EFC to SAI means that the Federal Department of Education has made changes to the overall Federal Methodology (FM) formula.

The basic framework of that formula is the same; applicants provide all of their financial and demographic information, all of their income is compiled, then there are allowances applied towards that income. What spits out at the end of the formula is a number that is used to establish eligibility.

The biggest difference is that the SAI will be allowed to go as low as negative 1500, which the EFC cannot do.

So, why did this change occur? There were two main goals when Congress was tackling the formula. One was to make the formula more simple for all facets by pulling in as much information as possible from the IRS. The other, was to make the formula generally more generous to create more Pell eligible students, and to increase the Pell amount for the bulk of current eligible students.

The Urban Institute recently released their findings from their analysis of FAFSA filers nationwide to predict the impact of this new formula. They found that the vast majority of FAFSA applicants will see no change. However, there will be some who will see a reduction in their award by more than $500 compared to right now. These are the students that your institutions should be looking at to figure out how to best address this difference.

If you happen to be a NASFAA member, I encourage you to check out the SAI modeling tool. This tool was developed to allow institutions the ability to use their own student data to model how these changes to the Federal Methodology (FM) formula will impact student need and, consequently, financial aid budgets on your campuses. The model will also estimate the student’s Pell Grant award under the provisions of the FAFSA Simplification Act.
Institution Spotlight

BY VERONICA VALLES - REGIS UNIVERSITY

The holidays are around the corner and, with so many changes coming up next year, many of you may feel it’s hard to slow down. During these holidays, we’d like to invite you to unplug and spend as much time as possible with your loved ones. It is also a good time to reflect and express your gratitude for all the accomplishments and wonderful things you’ve had this year.

I also want to take this opportunity to share with you the wonderful job that Regis University has been doing to help many of those who have a different life from us. The Inside/Out program was developed this year to provide access to higher education to people behind bars in Colorado. You can read more about this program below, which was recently highlighted at 9News.

Watch 9News Coverage

CMASFAA Conference is Coming...

BY VERONICA VALLES - 4-YEAR PRIVATE SECTOR & COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

October, 2023 may seem too far away, just like traveling to Fort Collins, but it is not! Colorado needs your presence at this conference, and we hope to see many of you next year.

Don’t forget you can also join the team and represent Colorado to deliver a great conference!

If you are interested, please reach out to:
- Jill Robertson: jrobert@mines.edu
- Joe Donlay: jdonlay@colostate.edu
Sector Shout Out

BY MICHAEL VIGIL, PROPRIETARY SCHOOL REP

Proprietary schools -sometimes termed "private career schools" - like all of us, work diligently to accommodate the needs of our students. We offer flexible class options along with services and support to help them succeed. As we have all seen, there has been a national push for supporting students’ health and well-being. Students now, more than ever, are faced with higher cost of living, interest rate increases, and more daily stressors than in recent years.

Platt College recognizes the correlation between academic stress and emotional and financial well-being. Rather than be reactive, we are proactive and still teach soft skills while educating students on coping skills.

Platt has a warning system in place to help us recognize students who are in distress and do wellness checks. We have the YOU Platt College platform for our students where they receive anonymous, 24/7, supportive tools that include study techniques, stress and anxiety tips and tools, and how to set goals. These are all personalized and confidential for our students.

During finals week, we have support animals on campus. We continually look for ways to help retain students and achieve our goal to help students graduate.

We Need Your Input

BY LINDSEY CAPBELL - CAFAA PRESIDENT

We are needing you, the member, to tell us what informational sessions you would find most valuable at our annual conference in May. Please take a moment to complete this brief survey to let us know the topics you think would be most beneficial. You can also indicate if you are interested in presenting.

https://forms.gle/b7GoZSbaXEgpzJNw5

We will be calling for presentation descriptions from possible presenters in February with final topics being selected by March.
EVENTS, UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Time Warp
HOLLY DAUGHERTY - CAFAA HISTORIAN

We have over 900 photos to identify and you can still help by filling out the online form. More photos will be added soon! https://forms.gle/2rgarEQkNJMUN3Wd8

Silent Auction Items Needed
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The Conference Committee is in the process of gathering donations for our annual philanthropic silent auction which will be held during the annual conference in May.

Popular Items include:
- Event Tickets (sporting, performing arts, concert, etc.)
- Artisan Items (artwork, jewelry, etc.)
- Signed Memorabilia
- Vacation Packages

Another option is to have your team create a themed gift basket to donate. Your team can pick the theme, staff members each contribute some money (for example $10-$15), and one team member is tasked with shopping for items and assembling the themed basket.

If you have items to donate or would like to help in requesting donations, please contact Mike Pearce - michael.pearce@cccs.edu or Karen Tran - karen.tran@rrcc.edu.

Upcoming Events:

Quarterly CAFAA Board Meeting
FEB 17

Final Call for CAFAA Presenters
MARCH 15

Quarterly CAFAA Board Meeting
APRIL 7

CAF AA Spring Conference
Steamboat Springs, CO
MAY 3-5
Members


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, 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.