

FEB 2023

CAFAA NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Colorado Association of Financial Aid Administrators



NASFAA 2023 Leadership & Legislative Conference & Expo

BY VERONICA VALLES, 4-YR PRIV SECTOR REP & COMMUNICATIONS CO-CHAIR

What a fantastic conference in DC! According to NASFAA, there were more than 400 financial aid professionals who attended the [2023 Leadership and Legislative Conference & Expo](#) during the week of February 5th - 8th. Among these attendees, there were ten financial aid experts from Colorado including:



- Lindsey Campbell, Director of Fin. Aid, CMU & CAFAA President
- Ariel Mendez, Director of Fin. Aid, Arapahoe CC & CAFAA President-Elect
- Veronica Valles, Fin. Aid Counselor, Regis University & CAFAA 4-YR Private Sector Rep./Communications Co-Chair
- Barb Marshall, CU-Boulder & past CAFAA Treasurer
- Catherine Rohde, Assoc. Director. of Fin Aid, Regis University & past CAFAA 4-YR Private Sector Rep.

We all had the amazing opportunity to build new relationships, grow professionally and bring relevant information to CAFAA and institutions in our state!

During the opening session, NASFAA President and CEO, Justin Draeger, asked, "what are the things that keep you up at night related to financial aid?" What about FAFSA Simplification? We at CAFAA want to make sure we communicate important updates to our members about the new changes coming up for the 2024-2025 award year so you can start planning now. That is why we have compiled some key points on the next page and are also working hard on putting together a webinar to recap what we learned during this conference. We hope you can all join us!

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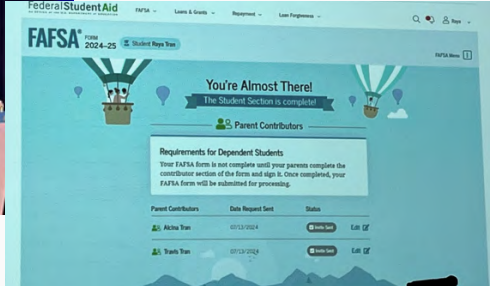
NASFAA 2023 Leadership & Legislative Conference & Expo: FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION

BY VERONICA VALLES, 4-YR PRIV SECTOR REP & COMMUNICATIONS CO-CHAIR

On the second day of the conference, the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) provided an update on [FAFSA Simplification](#). Let's start by saying that FAFSA Simplification does not mean less questions on the FAFSA. So what does it mean then? It means a better FAFSA process by implementing the following changes:

- The new FAFSA will now have "contributors". This includes students, parents and spouses.
- Every contributor will need to create their own FSA ID to complete the financial section.
- Parents without an SSN will have the opportunity to create an FSA ID.
- Each contributor will be asked to provide "consent" before they begin completing their section of the FAFSA.
- Students will be able to invite their parent and/or spouses to create an FSA ID and complete the financial section.
- No more Save Key!
- No more IRS DRT! By providing consent, ED will have direct access to contributors' IRS data to calculate SAI.
- Double the number of colleges that can be listed on the FAFSA. It will increase from 10 to 20.
- A negative SAI cannot receive more than their cost of attendance.

But wait...there's much more! FSA stated they will release the 2024-2025 FAFSA during the fourth quarter, most likely closer to January 1, 2024. That means no FAFSA on October 1! This is something that will keep many of us up at night. Institutions that issue financial aid offers prior January 1 will need to start developing a contingency plan as soon as possible.



NASFAA Recap Webinar

A WEBINAR WILL BE HOSTED IN MARCH TO RECAP THE NASFAA CONFERENCE STAY TUNED!





Important Things to Note

IN 2023, THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT IS FOCUSING ON EXPANDING FREE FINANCIAL COACHING AND COUNSELING SERVICES STATEWIDE

Consumer Protection Resources for Colorado Students

COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

March 5-11 is National Consumer Protection Week. It is a time when government agencies, consumer protection groups, and other organizations work together to share information about consumer rights and help people protect themselves from fraud, identify theft, scams, and unfair practices. The [Consumer Protection Section of the Colorado Attorney General's Office](#) is dedicated to protecting Colorado consumers and businesses by upholding Colorado and federal laws designed to maintain a fair and competitive business environment while protecting consumers from being targets of fraud.



Financial aid administrators can support students and recent graduates in protecting themselves financially, especially when it comes to management of student loans and repayment. Below are some resources that the Colorado Attorney General's Office offers to help you equip your students with key tools to support a strong financial future:

[The Colorado Student Loan Ombudsman Program](#)

The Colorado Student Loan Ombudsman is a resource for all Colorado student loan borrowers. The ombudsman is responsible for receiving, reviewing, and attempting to resolve student loan borrower complaints.

Borrowers struggling with their student loans may file a complaint at <https://coag.gov/file-complaint/credit-and-debt/> or visit our website for more information at: <https://coag.gov/studentloans/>.

[Office of Financial Empowerment](#)

In 2021, the Colorado Legislature created the Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE) to grow the financial resilience and well-being of Coloradans. The OFE's programs and strategies have an intentional focus on low-income and marginalized communities who have historically faced barriers to financial stability and well-being. The OFE provides resources and tools to organizations who support communities in thriving financially

If you would like to learn more about the OFE, please visit our website at: www.coag.gov/ofe and [subscribe](#) to our monthly newsletter, or contact us at ofe@coag.gov.

To learn more about how to support the individuals you work with through consumer financial protection resources, [sign up](#) for our webinar, coming up on March 6th.



Institution Spotlight

JANELLE COOK - COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

In 2022 the Office of Financial Aid at CMC transitioned from serving students based on location to a college-wide, one-office approach. With five open positions and no qualified applicants, it was critical to find a staffing solution that would not adversely impact students. In response, college leadership agreed to a policy shift to hire financial aid experts who could work remotely. Since this change, CMC has hired four new experienced staff members.

Our revitalized team now provides one-office services with expanded hours for a variety of student appointment types at all eleven CMC campuses. Students have the option to consult on short notice via Virtual Open Office Hours. To be more accessible, we now offer evening hours until 7:00 p.m. three nights a week.

Weekly training, ongoing departmental messaging, and a mentoring buddy system have enabled the team to maintain a consistent level of quality in serving students.



The Financial Aid Team of Colorado Mountain College

RMAFAA Summer Institute

HOLLY DAUGHERTY, COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR/HISTORIAN

RMAFAA's Summer Institute is a nationally recognized week of training for financial aid administrators. Registrants are divided into classes and each class is led by two instructors. The curriculum follows the NASFAA U modules for the various Title IV aid topics; however, other non-Title IV topics are also covered. Fun, engaging activities, and networking outside the classroom are also part of this valuable experience!

Join the RMAFAA Summer Institute June 4-8, 2023
Wichita State University, Wichita KS

Want to be included in our Institution Spotlight?

EMAIL HOLLY DAUGHERTY

HDAUGHERTY@COLORADOMESA.EDU

CAFAA COMMUNICATION CHAIR & HISTORIAN





CAFAA Conference Update

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

This year's Steampunk'd conference will take attendees Full Steam Ahead into the Future of Financial Aid!

Take advantage of Early Bird prices by registering online before March 17th, 2023.

Early Bird Prices:

- \$250 Member (increases to \$300)
- \$325 Non-Member (increases to \$375)
- \$1,000 Service Provider Table Only
- \$1,500 Service Provider Sponsorship includes table, logo in program, and attendee contact list after the conference

This year \$5 from each registration will be used to help support the newly created RMASFAA Leadership & DEI scholarship initiatives. These scholarships were created to help support a CAFAA member in partaking in these regional professional development opportunities. Scholarship recipient criteria will be announced at the conference.

Along with registering for the conference be sure to take advantage of special conference pricing when reserving hotel rooms with the [Steamboat Grand Hotel](#).

As is tradition, the conference will feature a philanthropic silent auction with all proceeds raised being donated back into the hosting community. If you have silent auction items you would like to donate please contact [Mike Pearce](#).

Confirmed session presenters for this year's conference include:

- RMASFAA Update - Becca Dobry, RMASFAA's President
- SAI -John Gudvangen & Joe Donley, Financial Aid Directors
- Equity & Inclusion In Education, Dr. Roberto Montoya - CDHE

Check out the [CAFAA website](#) over the next few weeks for an updated list of conference presenters and sessions.

With so many great things about the conference to think about you may be asking yourself the biggest question of all "What exactly is Steampunk?!" Steampunk is a fictional setting that imagines technology evolved from steam-powered machines and gears instead of electricity and computers. Think, a world of anachronistic technology, clockwork automatons, gas-filled airships, and top hats. The Conference Committee invites you to don your best top-hat or petticoat to attend the Captain's Dinner and Award Ceremony on May 4th.

Questions about the conference, contact- [Karen Tran](#), Conference Chair

Full Steam Ahead... Early Bird Registration Open

REGISTER EARLY FOR THE
ANNUAL CAFAA CONFERENCE

ANNUAL CAFAA CONFERENCE
MAY 3-5, 2023
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO





EVENTS, UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Silent Auction Items Needed

The Conference Committee is in the process of gathering donations for our annual philanthropic silent auction. 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.

Are You Planning to Present in May

If you are planning on hosting a session at the Annual CAFAA Conference we need you to tell us about you and what you plan to share. Please complete the Conference Presenter Survey:

<https://forms.gle/UQks4X3yKKmDhAgK6>

Don't want to present?! That's OK. Let us know what topics you would like to attend by completing the Conference Session Interest Survey:

<https://forms.gle/inryRdijjcaYq67LA>

RMAFSA Conference is Coming to Colorado

Colorado needs your presence at the 2023 RMAFSA conference, and we hope to see many of you next year. If you are interested in helping coordinate this conference, please reach out to:

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

Time Warp

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>

Upcoming Events:

Conference Registration &
Call for Conference
Presenters Opens
FEB

Final Call for CAFAA
Conference Presenters
MARCH 15

Early Bird Conference
Registration Closes
MARCH 17

Quarterly CAFAA
Board Meeting
APRIL 7

CAFAA Spring Conference
Steamboat Springs, CO
MAY 3-5

RMAFSA 2023 Conference
Ft. Collins, CO
OCT

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 - CDHE - 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

Don't Miss Out On Early Bird Conference Registration Prices!

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