

APR 2023

CAFAA NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Colorado Association of
Financial Aid Administrators

Gearing Up For the Conference

KAREN TRAN, CONFERENCE CHAIR

Is this your first time coming to CAFAA? Is it your first time visiting Steamboat Springs? Have no fear, we will answer your questions and more to make this conference worry-free!

It's my first CAFAA, what do I expect?

- This conference will be packed-full of sessions to help you learn more skills and gain knowledge to bring back to your everyday job.
- Read through the [session descriptions](#) to see what interests you for each time slot.
- You'll be able to network with financial aid professionals from all around the state!
- Feel free to dress up for the award banquet on May 4th! You can wear anything from dressy to full Steampunk attire to match our theme!
- We will be having a silent auction, so bring some extra money. All the proceeds go to the Advocates of Routt County, a local non-profit (see page 4 to learn more about them!).
- Every meal is listed on the schedule, but dinner Wednesday is on your own so you can explore Steamboat! (see page 3 for committee suggestions!)

Tell me about the hotel!

- Check in is at 4PM and check out is at 11AM (let the front desk know if you need a late check out time!).
- As guests of the hotel, we'll have access to the health center, pool and hot tub!

What to pack?

- The temperature at conferences is always unpredictable, I advise wearing what you are comfortable in and having layers. Spring time in the Rockies can also be unpredictable, so bring a coat just in case. If you plan to check out the hotel pool or hot springs do not forget your swim suit!

If you have specific questions lets connect: karen.tran@rrcc.edu



KAREN TRAN

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Meet Tawny Espinoza - Keynote Presenter

HOLLY DAUGHERTY, COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

On May 5th CAFAA will hear from Tawny Espinoza as this years' keynote presentation.

Tawny is the Vice President of Business Development at Community Hospital in Grand Junction, CO. She has worked for Community Hospital for 11.5 years, and has been in her current role for the last six. During her tenure, she has served local employer groups managing their clinic/narrow network agreements and wellness programs. For the past five years, she has been working to build an onsite childcare center, which will open in the summer of 2023.



TAWNY ESPINOZA

She has a bachelor's degree in Human Performance and Wellness, with concentrations in both Exercise Science and Corporate Fitness, and a master's degree in Business Administration. She was a fellow of the Ball State University/Florida State University Social Marketing program, a graduate of the Denver University Regional Institute for Health and Environmental Leadership, and a CiviCO Leadership Academy graduate. She teaches as an adjunct faculty member in the Kinesiology Department at Colorado Mesa University. Tawny served two terms on the Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, three terms on the Colorado Mesa University Alumni Board, is the Past Chair for the Greater Grand Junction Sports Commission, and the Past Chair for the Strive Board. She also participates on a number of other local coalitions and committees.

Through these experiences, Tawny has a unique perspective and has employed tools on how to navigate change - which will be imperative as we as Financial Aid Professionals embark on the next 18 months with FAFSA Simplification.

Lifetime Members

HOLLY DAUGHERTY, HISTORIAN

At the conference we will honor the contributions and dedication of our Lifetime Members. These are members who have held a career in Financial Aid for 25+ years and have retired within the last year. If you have a lifetime member you want to recognize send their information (first/last name, institution, years of service) to Holly Daugherty, CAFAA Historian hdaugherty@coloradomesa.edu.

There is Still Time To Register

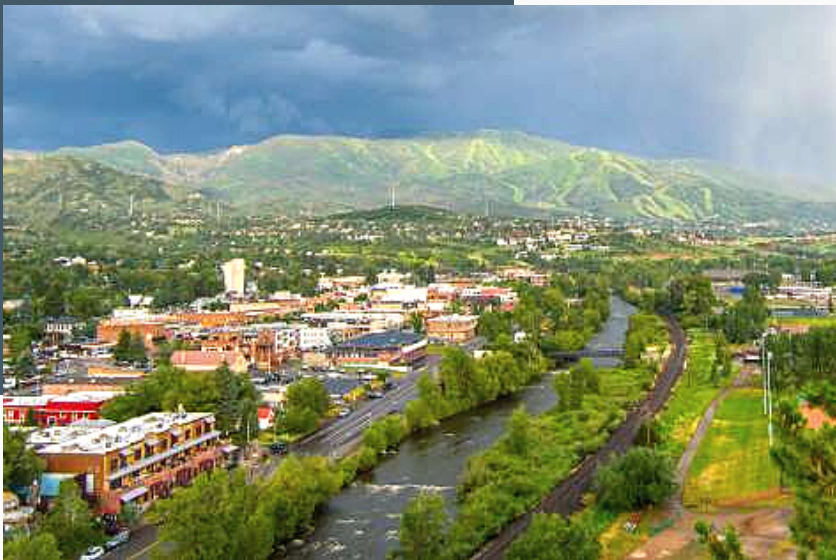
CAFAA CONFERENCE
ONLINE REGISTRATION
CLOSES APRIL 26

DON'T DELAY
[REGISTER](#) TODAY!



Try The Dirty Harry at the Backdoor Grill

VOTED TOP 10 IN THE COUNTRY
THIS BURGER HAS IT ALL!
PEANUT BUTTER, FRIED EGG,
BACON, HASH BROWNS, &
CHEDDAR ALL ON A GLAZED
DONUT WITH POWDERED SUGAR



Full Steam Ahead to Steamboat

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Whether this is your first time visiting [Steamboat Springs](#) or not we hope you take some time to explore the beautiful town and surrounding area. Spring in the high country is deemed "mud-season" and the weather can be just a tad unpredictable so if you plan to visit any of the outdoor spaces it is important to be prepared.

Things to do:

- Soak in the [Old Town Hot Springs](#) \$29/day
- Stroll along the Yampa River Core Trail in the historic downtown
- Weather permitting hike to [Fish Creek Falls](#)
- Participate in an escape room at [The Crooked Key](#)
- Shop for gifts from local artists at Ohana or The Homesteader
- Visit the [Tread of Pioneers History Museum](#) or the [Steamboat Art Museum](#)
- Visit Yampa River Botanic Park (6 acres of botanic gardens)
- Explore outdoors at Sanctuary Trailhead
- Connect with your inner-child at [Fuzziwig's Candy Factory](#)
- Get your caffeine fix at Off the Beaten Path or Dusky Grouse Coffee
- Enjoy a cold one any of the local micro-breweries, Mountain Tap Brewery or Storm Peak Brewing Co. to name a few
- Take a ride up Mt. Werner and enjoy the views from a gondola
- And so much more...

Dinner on Wednesday, May 3rd, is on your own so you can explore the town and dine at any one of the over 100 fantastic restaurants/bars. We will have sign up sheets at the registration table throughout Wednesday for anyone wanting to meet up for dinner on the town. Reservations are highly encouraged. Here are a just a few restaurants and eateries the Conference Committee highly recommends:

Breakfast

Powder Day donuts
Freshies
The Egg
Big Iron Coffee Co.

Sushi

Tahk Omakase Sushi
Ocean Dragon Chinese & Sushi

American/Burgers/Pub Grub

O'Neil's Tavern & Grill
Johnny B Good's Diner
Yampa Valley Brewing Co.
Big House Burgers & Bottlecap Bar
Backdoor Grill*
Moe's Original BBQ
Hypnotic Chicken

International

Noodles & More
Los Locos
Taco Cabo
Mambo Italiano
Pizza
Beau Jo's
Brooklyn Pizzeria

Even though the conference can be busy be sure to make some time to enjoy your visit to Steamboat Springs.



Advocates of Routt County

ALLISON DOGLIO, ADVOCATES OF ROUTT COUNTY & HOLLY DAUGHERTY, CAFAA COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

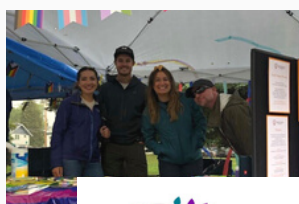
The Conference Committee is pleased to announce that [Advocates of Routt County](#) has been selected as this year's non-profit recipient of the silent auction proceeds generated during the CAFAA Conference. Mark Fitzgerald, Executive Director of Better Tomorrow, the administrative home for Advocates and other non-profits, will join us on May 3rd to further discuss the impact this organization has on the surrounding area.

Who We Are:

Advocates of Routt County has been serving the surrounding community for over 40 years. We provide services to support victims of domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking and stalking; regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, orientation, or ability. We operate the only 24/7 crisis safe-line in northwestern Colorado for crisis support, information, or safety planning. Additionally we offer an emergency shelter as well as transitional housing for victims. All of these services are 100% free and confidential.

Not only do we provide emotional and logistical support for victims of these crimes, we are also collaborating with partners across the region to reduce - and eliminate - these traumas impacting our families and neighbors. Additionally to prevent this violence in our community, Advocates offers empowering educational programs to raise awareness and provide skills for every citizen of Routt County.

We are grateful for CAFAA's support and look forward to seeing you in May!



How to Donate:

Throughout the conference you will have the opportunity to bid in our silent auction. Items will be on display in the main dining area. Place your bid on any and all items of interest to you. Be sure to follow the minimum bidding requirements and leave us good contact information. The auction will conclude at 7:00 PM, May 4th with winners being announced after. Items can be paid for using cash or check. Winners may claim their prizes throughout May 5th prior to the conference ending.

The Music Experience with Mission Upbeat

JOIN US MAY 4TH AFTER DINNER & AWARDS CEREMONY FOR AN INTERACTIVE EVENING OF FUN AND POSITIVE VIBES WITH OUR MUSIC-MAESTRO EXTRAORDINAIRE LOU MURRAY





Conference Session Teaser

CONFERENCE PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

We have some great sessions lined up for this year's conference. You can check out the entire schedule, including full session descriptions on the [CAFAA Website!](#)

Wednesday, May 3rd

- Post Covid Work study - NASFAA FWS Taskforce Updates & Best Practices
 - Catherine Rohde, Adina Chavez, Kristine Bureau - Regis University
- FAFSA Simplification - What's Simple About Any of This?
 - John Gudvangen - University of Denver
- SAP for the Newbies
 - Karen Tran -Red Rocks Community College
- Initiatives with Colorado Department of Higher Education
 - Violeta Apodaca, Annie Ngo, Sarah Collette - CDHE
- Developing Leadership Culture within Your Team
 - Lou Murray - Earnest

Thursday, May 4th

- NASFAA Inside the Beltway Update (Virtual)
 - Racheal Gentry - NASFAA
- Resolving C Codes
 - Carissa Koerner - University of Sioux Falls
- NASFAA Top Asked Questions (Virtual)
 - Dana Kelly - NASFAA
- RMASFAA Update
 - Becca Dobry - RMASFAA President
- Navigating Burnout
 - Sara Hogue - Colorado Mesa University
- Birds of a Feather: Meet other financial aid professionals who are doing the same work as you!
 - Scholarship Processing
 - Work-Study Processing
 - R2T4 Processing
 - SAP Processing
 - Management & Leadership

Friday, May 5th

- FAFSA Simplification Networking and Workshops

Come Ride With Us to RMASFAA 2023

Mark your calendars and plan to join your colleagues October 8-11 at the 2023 RMASFAA Annual Conference in beautiful Fort Collins, Colorado! Details will be included on the [RMASFAA website](#) in the near future.

Captain's Dinner & CAFAA Awards

MAY 4TH
 5:30 PM COCKTAIL HOUR
 W/ CASH BAR & BIRDS OF A FEATHER NETWORKING
 6:30PM DINNER & AWARDS CEREMONY
 STEAMPUNK ATTIRE WELCOME!





Introducing Your 2023-2024 CAFAA Board

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

We hope you can join us at the conference to welcome in the official 2023-2024 CAFAA Board Members. All incoming and exiting board members will attend a pre-conference transition meeting May 2nd with the formal passing of the gavel to conclude the conference on May 5th.

2023-2024 CAFAA Board Members

- Ariel Mendez, Arapahoe Community College
- Shannon Webber, Red Rocks CC
- Lindsey Campbell, Colorado Mesa University
- Kristine Bureau, Regis University
- Veronica Valles, Regis University
- Reilly Watanabe, Colorado Mountain College
- Theresa Lavin, Community College of Denver
- Jordan Kemp, Lamar Community College
- Elizabeth Reynolds, Colorado State University
- Caleb McKay, Front Range Community College
- Adina Chavez, Regis University
- Crystal DeLong, Citizen's Bank
- Angela Romero, Arapahoe Community College
- Sandra Redley-Butler, Arapahoe Community College
- Fernando Gomez, Red Rocks Community College
- Karlett Eguiluz, Metro State University
- Holly Daugherty, Colorado Mesa University
- Mike Pearce, Colorado Community College System

RMASFAA Summer Institute

RMASFAA 2023 Summer Institute Registration is open!

Early-bird registration will end May 5th.

Join us June 4- 8, Wichita State University Wichita, KS.

[Click Here to Register!](#)



Volunteers Needed

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL MEMBERS TO SERVE ON ALL CAFAA COMMITTEES:

- CONFERENCE
- FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS
- COMMUNICATIONS
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LEARN MORE FROM OUR COMMITTEE CHAIRS AT OUR PANEL SESSION MAY 4, AT 9 AM



EVENTS, UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



Thanks to the 2023 Conference Committee

This year's conference committee is in high gear moving full steam ahead to bring the members of CAFAA a fun and exciting steampunk'd event. It's about time we give credit where credit is due for their commitment to putting on this year's event.

THANK YOU 2023 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE!

- Karen Tran, Chair
- Karlett Eguiluz, Co-Chair
- Lindsey Campbell, Programming
- Marianne Mercado, Registration
- Mike Pearce, Silent Auction & Technology
- Holly Daugherty, Decorations & Theme
- Lou Murray, Service Provider Coordinator & Entertainment

Conference Committee Volunteers:

Ariel Mendez, Kristine Bureau, Andrea Wurst, Tena Harris, Theresa Lavin, Catherine Rohde, Sara VanValkenburg, Tori Pacheco, Crystal Delong

Thanks to the 2023 Service Provider Sponsors

During the conference be sure to make time to visit with all of our Service Provider Representatives!

Nelnet Bank*

Earnest*

College Ave Student Loans*

ScholarNet

ELM Resources

ScholarNet

Sallie Mae*

Inceptia*

ELM Resources

Citizens Student Loans*

SoFi*

Discover Student Loans*

THANK YOU 2023 SERVICE PROVIDER SPONSORS! *

Upcoming Events:

CAFAA Spring Conference
Steamboat Springs, CO
MAY 3-5

2023-2024 First Quarterly
Board Meeting
JUNE

RMASFAA 2023 Summer
Institute
Wichita, KS
JUNE 4-8

RMASFAA 2023 Conference
Ft. Collins, CO
OCT 8 -11

CAFAA Conference '24
Colorado Springs, CO
MAY

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 - INCEPTIA 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 Registration Closes April 26th!

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