

MAY 2023

# CAFAA NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Colorado Association of Financial Aid Administrators

## Conference Recap

KAREN TRAN, CONFERENCE CHAIR

Thank you all those who traveled Full Steam Ahead to the Future of Financial Aid with us at the conference this month in Steamboat Springs. A year's worth of work and planning paid off!

Our amazing conference committee helped put on this three day conference with 23 breakout sessions, 32 speakers and panelists from across the nation and 104 attendees. Many of the sessions were geared towards the FAFSA Simplification and the overall changes that will soon affect Financial Aid offices across the entire nation. And, while in the moment it may have seemed overwhelming, we hope that this conference helped bring you new knowledge and strengthen your network so that we can all continue our work serving our students across the state.

As we steer towards the future, we encourage you to apply the process for "Crafting a Vision for Change" that our keynote speaker Tawny Espinoza shared;

1. Learn by being curious
2. Prepare by being informed and sharing the information
3. Plan for the unknowns
4. Care for yourself by knowing what matters to you

Now is the time to reflect on the information that was shared, organize the business cards you collected and to make a game plan for yourself and your team.

If you were unable to join us this year you can find session slides on the [CAFAA website](#).

We're so excited and look forward to seeing you all again next year in Colorado Springs for the 55th CAFAA Conference!



KARLETT & KAREN

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## 2023 CAFAA Honor Roll & Award Recipients

### HOLLY DAUGHERTY-CAFAA COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

The CAFAA Awards, honor our member's achievement and outstanding contributions to the financial aid community, their institution, the State and their commitment to CAFAA. Here are this years recipients:

#### Postsecondary Institution Professional of the Year

- Dean Wilson, Community College of Denver

Dean has been instrumental to the success of financial aid offices in Colorado for years, but the last year has been more widespread than most know. Thanks to his dedicated work, CASFA processing has become easier for students and staff alike.

#### Thomas Monahan Rookie of the Year

- Karen Tran, Red Rocks Community College

In their 1st year in Financial Aid, Karen, volunteered to chair the CAFAA Conference committee and quickly earned a promotion from their entry-level position. They work on RRCC DEI initiatives while running the Denver Women's Chorus outside of work. Rock star!

#### Non-Postsecondary Institution Professional of the Year

- DeAnna Castaneda, CDHE

Her implementation of a modernized and accessible CASFA, that better aligns with the FAFSA was been beneficial to the state as a whole. She continues to fine tune the process and work with institutions across the state to continue the improvements and process.

#### Distinguished Support Staff Member of the Year

- Nadine Green, Red Rocks Community College

Nadine keeps the RRCC Financial Aid office running smoothly each and every day! She not only does our admin work, PDF accessibility, but she is our EAB admin and keeps that program running smoothly for the entire college!

#### President's Service Award

- Holly Daugherty, Colorado Mesa University

Though, being early on in her career with financial aid Holly has been tenacious in the learning of financial aid regulations and processes and has said yes to being involved in CAFAA because she cares about the unity and success of our profession.

#### Lifetime Members

- Carolee Goldsmith, Front Range Community College, 30+ Years

Thank you to all award recipients for their dedication and service to financial aid as a profession and to our organization.

# A wise person once said...

THERE IS NO MORE HONORABLE PROFESSION THAN ONE THAT MAKES THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE  
~WILBERT E. SCHEER





[Click Here](#)  
To Watch a  
Conference Recap!



## Board Transition

VERONICA VALLES, TREASURER & COMMUNICATIONS  
CO-CHAIR

We had a fantastic board transition on Tuesday, May 2nd! All new board members were asked to attend the 2023 conference in Steamboat Springs and be present at our transitional board meeting on Tuesday. During this meeting, we discussed all the accomplishments the 2022-2023 president and board members made throughout the year.

Check some of them out below:

- Last November, our communications committee launched the CAFAA Newsletter!
- A committee was created at the beginning of the board term to review the Bylaws and develop CAFAA's new strategic plan for the next three years.
- An organizational chart committee was created to review and align positions with CAFAA's new goals and position descriptions that would help ease the transition at our annual conference.
- We formalized chair and co-chair positions in the following committees: conference, communication, financial aid awareness and professional development. Along with adding a State representative position to be held by an individual from CDHE.
- CAFAA participated in the State Swap Initiative with RMAFSA. Our conference co-chair, Karlett, had the amazing opportunity to attend the KASFAA Spring Conference, held in Salinas, KS.
- CAFAA was officially invited to join the Colorado Council of High School and College Relations board.
- CAFAA was offered a seat at the new CDHE group, led by Twila Esquibel, to help increase the FAFSA/CASFA completion rate in our State.



With so many new regulations coming this year, the 2023-2024 CAFAA Board is committed to ensuring the effective implementation of our new strategic plan. We want to strengthen our relationship with all of our members and provide new opportunities to engage, share ideas and learn new ways to navigate the future world of financial aid.

Thank you to all the wonderful people who volunteered their time and talents this past year! We could not have done without you! For the 2023-2024 year, we had so many people join the new board and committees that I have no doubt that CAFAA will be successful as we all work together to accomplish our strategic goals in the upcoming year.

Our new 2023-2024 Board members are listed on page 5, I encourage you to connect with your sector rep or any of our Committee Chairs to learn about how you too can get involved with CAFAA.



## Silent Auction Proceeds

HOLLY DAUGHERTY, COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

During the conference, over \$1,200.00 was raised to support the area nonprofit Advocates of Routt County.

Through CAFAA's donation, Advocates will continue their mission of supporting and empowering all people impacted by sexual violence and abusive relationships; while disrupting all systems that tolerate and perpetuate such violence. Thank you to all of you who took part in our silent auction and congrats to our winners...especially John Gudvangen.



# Want to be included in our Institution Spotlight?

EMAIL HOLLY DAUGHERTY  
[HDAUGHERTY@COLORADOMESA.EDU](mailto:HDAUGHERTY@COLORADOMESA.EDU)

CAFAA COMMUNICATION  
CHAIR & HISTORIAN

## The Music Experience with Mission Upbeat

VERONICA VALLES, TREASURER & COMMUNICATIONS CO-CHAIR

Happiness is yelling BINGO!

A huge thank you goes to Lou Murray with Mission Upbeat for spreading the positivity, on Thursday, May 4th! Conference attendees enjoyed dancing, singing and playing music "Bingo" during The Music Experience!

Life is short, so we all wore our party pants and had a great time helping each other to identify the songs and the singers.





## Welcome 2023-2024 CAFAA Board

HOLLY DAUGHERTY, COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

As is tradition the end of the conference marked the end of the 2022-2023 CAFAA Board and the transition to the new board. Here are the official members of the 2023-2024 CAFAA Board. We are excited to travel Full Steam Ahead to the Future of Financial Aid with you!

### Executive Board

- President, [Ariel Mendez](#), Arapahoe Community College
- President Elect, [Shannon Webber](#), Red Rocks Community College
- Past President, [Lindsey Campbell](#), Colorado Mesa University
- Vice President, [Reilly Watanabe](#), Colorado Mountain College
- Secretary, [Theresa Lavin](#), Community College of Denver
- Treasurer, [Veronica Valles](#), Regis University
- Treasurer, [Kristine Bureau](#), Regis University
- Treasurer Elect, [Jordan Kemp](#), Lamar Community

### Board of Directors

- 2-YR Public Sector Rep., [Caleb McKay](#), Front Range Community College
- 4- YR Public Sector Rep., [Beth Reynolds](#), Colorado State University
- 4-YR Private Sector Rep., [Adina Chavez](#), Regis University
- Proprietary School Rep., [Michael Vigil](#), Platt College
- State Partner, [Gayle Godfrey](#), CDHE
- Service Organization Rep., [Crystal DeLong](#), Citizen's Bank

### Committee Chairs

- Professional Development, [Lindsey Campbell](#), Colorado Mesa University
  - Co-Chair, [Angela Romero](#), Arapahoe Community College
- Communications, [Holly Daugherty](#), Colorado Mesa University
  - Co-Chair, [Veronica Valles](#), Regis University
- Conference, [Karlett Eguiluz-Christie](#), Metro State University
- Financial Aid Awareness, [Sandra Redley-Butler](#), Arapahoe CC
  - Co-Chair, [Fernando Gomez](#), Red Rock Community College
- Membership, [Tracey Craven](#), Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design
- Technology, [Mike Pearce](#), Colorado Community College System



# Join us at the RMAFAA 2023 Annual Conference

OCTOBER 8-11  
FORT COLLINS, CO

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND  
PLAN TO JOIN YOUR COLLEAGUES!





Thanks for  
Attending!

# CAFAA 2023

See You Next Year!

Colorado Springs, CO May 8-10



# EVENTS, UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

To have your event or announcement included please email [hdaugherty@coloradomesa.edu](mailto:hdaugherty@coloradomesa.edu)

## Thank You Presenters

The Conference Committee would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all of the presenters for your participation in person and virtually at the annual CAFAA Conference. Your contributions were invaluable, and we received numerous positive comments from attendees about all of the presentations.

## Volunteer With CAFAA

Events like the annual conference are put on with the help of volunteers like you! These volunteer opportunities not only help the organization, but they are also great additions to your personal resume. There are multiple committees within CAFAA for you to become involved with. Follow the QR Code to let us know you are interested.

CAFAA Committees:

- Financial Aid Awareness
- Professional Development
- Communications
- Conference



V O L      N T E E R

all that's missing is U

## Upcoming Events:

RMASFAA Annual  
Conference  
Fort Collins, CO  
OCT 8-10

CAFAA Spring Conference  
Colorado Springs, CO  
MAY 8-10

# 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

**Stay tuned for more virtual events and ways to connect brought to you by our:  
Professional Development, Financial Aid Awareness Committees and Sector Reps!**

## 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](mailto:hdaugherty@coloradomesa.edu)
- Veronica Valles, Co-Chair: [vvalles@regis.edu](mailto: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