

# DEAR SDASFAA

*The Newsletter*

MARCH 2018

## NASFAA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE UPDATE PRESIDENT-ELECT ERIN RICHARDS

I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to participate in the NASFAA Leadership and Legislative Conference in Washington DC in February! I attended the association management pathway, which had great sessions about association governance, leadership planning, and volunteerism. The presenters were financial aid leaders from across the country and were very open with sharing their own experiences, knowledge, and tips. I also appreciated the opportunity to network with upcoming leaders from other states as well, to discuss challenges we face and ideas for how to overcome them. At the conclusion of the conference, I was able to make a visit to Capitol Hill. I met individually with staff members from the offices of Senator Thune and Senator Rounds to talk about the importance of federal student aid programs to South Dakota families. Overall, it was such a positive, empowering experience, and I was proud to represent SDASFAA!



*Erin, just wishin'*  
*Erin Richards*      *John Thune*

## ASSOCIATION UPDATES

- The final minutes of the February 8th SDASFAA Board meeting have been approved and are posted on SDASFAA's website.
- The Board recently appointed Amber Brockel to replace Kassandra Boyer as Member At Large. Kassie is leaving financial aid at the end of this month.

## WHAT'S NEXT

- April 30 the Board will hold its spring meeting in Huron.
- April 30 through May 2 the SDASFAA Spring Conference and Annual Business meeting will be held at the Huron Event Center and Crossroads Hotel.
- RMASFAA Summer Institute is scheduled for June 3 through 8 in Colorado Springs. Registration cutoff is May 15.
- Save the date for the 2018 RMASFAA Conference in Fargo! October 7 through 10, 2018.

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

- Spring has arrived in Brookings—at least temporarily. Despite Saturday's snow, the robins arrived over the weekend.
- March 15th and 16th, I attended the RMASFAA Board meeting in Denver. It was quite an honor to represent SDASFAA with our own Ken Kocer overseeing the meeting. Ken is on the SDASFAA Conference agenda to provide a RMASFAA update.
- I hope to see all of you in Huron next month!

## SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN

- Spring conference is just around the corner. Join us in Huron April 30 through May 2 for 3 days of training, networking, and fun. The Conference Committee has been working hard to put together a great program. For additional information including the agenda and registration information visit <http://www.sdasfaa.org/springconf.html>.

## RMASFAA APPLICATIONS

- The Leadership Pipeline [Application](#) is due on or before June 30th.
- The Diversity and Multicultural Initiatives Scholarship [Application](#) for Summer Institute is due April 30, 2018.