

March



2024

Mark Your Calendars!

SDASFAA Spring Conference

April 16-18, 2024
Sioux Falls, SD

Summer Institute

June 1-6, 2024
Wichita, KS

RMASFAA Conference

October 20-23, 2024
Rapid City, SD

NASFAA National Conference

June 16-19, 2024
Milwaukee, WI



Get to know SDASFAA President, Sydney Chapman

Sydney has been in financial aid for almost 9 years. She started as an intern in 2015 and was hired on as a full time financial aid counselor in 2016.

Just a few years later, in 2019, Sydney became an assistant director for the office of financial aid at SDSU. Sydney oversees the FAFSA load process, awarding, and the COD imports/exports. She also oversees all of the system set up and technical work as well as troubleshooting.

Speaking some wise words of wisdom, Sydney states, “Our jobs in financial aid can be really hard so I often remind myself that each problem or difficult task will have an end and will soon be just part of the past. Things seem daunting or hard to tackle but keep moving through one step at a time and you will tackle it and pretty soon you won’t think of that problem again. This can be true on a small scale or a large scale whether it is one difficult student or FAFSA simplification implementation, it will all soon be in the past, so keep going.”

If there are topics you would like to see discussed or other items you would like to bring to the attention of our SDASFAA members, please let someone on the Communication & Website Committee know.

Members:

Alyssa Blake (BHSU)
Ashley Doran (SDSU)
Kim Nida (SDSMT)
Kristy O’Kief (WDT)
Linda Shumaker (USD)

SDASFAA 2024 Spring Conference Aftermath Records

Registration
is now open!



SDASFAA Spring Conference
Release Date: April 16-18, 2024

Holiday Inn-City Centre Sioux Falls, South Dakota

In the aftermath of FAFSA Simplification, we hope you are all **Staying Alive**. As for me, I know **I Will Survive** because **I Get by With a Little Help from My** (SDASFAA) **Friends**. You may look at the new regulations and think **I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For** and be ready to throw your hands up and say **You Drive Me Crazy!** While **You Can't Always Get What You Want**, we can at least find solace that we are all on this **Crazy Train** together.

To register and for more information on the conference, please visit:

<https://sdasfaa.org/springconf.cfm>

NASFAA Leadership & Legislative Conference & Expo in Washington, D.C.

Tracey Buisker and Tirzah Knight



Tracey's Thoughts on the NASFAA Conference:

"As president-elect, I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. last month and represent SDASFA at the NASFAA Leadership & Legislative Conference & Expo. I was intimidated by the thought of attending the conference on my own, but those feelings melted away soon after I arrived. I participated in the Association Leadership Pathway, and the sessions were great! Topics included Navigating Nonprofit Governance, Mastering the Art of Running Effective Board Meetings and Navigating Financial Management and Fiscal Responsibility in Associations to name a few."

"At the end of the conference, I had the opportunity to participate in the Hill Visit to meet with staff from our Senators' and Representative's offices. I was really nervous about doing this, but it was a great experience. It was very empowering to meet with congressional staff and navigate our State Capitol campus. An added bonus to my trip was getting to know Tirzah Knight. She is a great addition to SDASFAA. It was so nice to have her there to explore the city and meet with our representatives. I expect we will see her on our state board in the future."

"Thank you to SDASFAA for sending me to this conference! It is a great perk of being president-elect. It was an amazing experience, and I highly recommend the Hill visit to anyone who attends!"



Tirzah's Experience from the NASFAA Conference:

"You know you are in financial aid when... attending the NASFAA Leadership & Legislative Conference & Expo fulfills a bucket list dream!! I had the incredible opportunity to attend the 2024 event with about 500 financial aid administrators from the U.S. and internationally, including Tracey Buisker from SDSU. Getting to know Tracey better was a pleasure; she is an absolute gem, and we are lucky to have her in SDASFAA! We met with staff from the offices of Representative Johnson, Senator Rounds, and Senator Thune to advocate for continued FWS/SEOG funding, increased Pell funding that hasn't kept up with cost increases, and removal of origination fees to decrease student confusion and increase student paid aid."



"This year, NASFAA provided four pathways, and I registered for the inaugural Financial Aid Management & Leadership Pathway. Sessions included the art of negotiating, staffing challenges, leading through change, flexible work schedules, succession planning, and DEI in FA. I sat at a table with a group from Georgia and got to hear about their office layout, software usage, experiences, and student interactions. What an amazing time to network! Secretary Cardona made a special visit to address us at the closing session and announced the FAFSA College Support Strategy. I would highly recommend the conference to anyone wanting a fantastic professional development experience."



Associate Member Spotlight: Dan Garrity

Lender and School Liaison

Iowa Student Loan Education Lending



Daniel Garrity
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How long have you been working in Financial Aid and how did you get here?

I started at ISL Education Lending in 2002 as a loan counselor. At the time leading up to my employment, I was a meat cutter for an Iowa based grocery chain. We happened to employ a part-time weekend employee who was a supervisor at ISL. After determining meat cutting was not my calling, she recommended I give ISL a look at and it was the best work decision I have ever made.

What is the best place you have traveled?

My favorite place I've traveled has to be the Caribbean. It does not disappoint. Jamaica also ranks at the top.

Who do you look up to?

I look up to my Grandpa Eugene. Gramps was my Superman who taught me many life lessons and although he was a very hard worker, he took time for fun and always put his family first.

Family

I am married to my beautiful wife, Alicia, who is employed at Corteva Agriscience. We have 14-year-old daughters, Avery, Brenna, and Claire. We also have Emmie who is 9-years-old and in the third grade. Our family has an adopted dog named Dublin and he is 10-years-old.

What is your favorite memory?

There are too many memories to choose just one, but I will never forget the day my wife had an ultrasound appointment. Going into the appointment, we already knew we were having twins, but when we learned that there was yet another, we were both flabbergasted that we were blessed with triplets. We didn't know whether to laugh or cry, pretty sure we did both.

