

SDASFAA

2023 Spring Conference

By Sharon Martin Western Dakota Tech

The 2023 SDASFAA Spring Conference was held April 4-6 in Rapid City at the Rushmore Hotel. Participants enjoyed the theme of "Financial Aid Twister – It Will Tie You Up in Knots". The theme held true to the weather, as many individuals had to change their travel plans last minute to beat the snowstorm! Because of the storm, participants hunkered down at the hotel and enjoyed a game night on Tuesday and the Award Ceremony on Wednesday evening. Hayli De Jong, from SDSU, was the recipient of the Douglas Steckler Award and Carissa Koerner, from USF, was the awarded the Outstanding Service Award.

This year the conference selected the NASFAA Credential of Student Eligibility. There were also sessions on C-Codes, Financial Aid Offers, and Conflicting Information. OIG Special Agent Jeff Kenney joined the conference virtually and presented on Fraud Prevention and Cathy Mueller presented on FAFSA Simplification. Cedric Collinge, from SDSM&T, spoke to the conference on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Ellie Haerter did a presentation on the Freedom Scholarship and Jennifer Pavlicek presented on Volunteerism.

SDASFAA would like to thank all the corporate partners and presenters during the conference.

Years of Service – Institutional Members:

10 Years

Ann Emerson, University of South Dakota
Valerie Solano, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
Carissa Koerner, University of Sioux Falls

15 Years

Kari Neal, University of South Dakota
Jill Corbin, Dakota State University

20 Years

Jon Muhs, Southeast Technical College
Linda Shumaker, University of South Dakota

25 Years

Kim Nida, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

Years of Service – Associate Members:

25 Years

Lance Hill – Bank of North Dakota

Retirees and Soon to be Retirees

Carmen Neugebauer, Mitchell Technical College
Ken Kocer, Mount Marty University
Marlene Seeklander, Lake Area Technical College
Brad Riebel, Sallie Mae
Paula Carlson, SD Education Access Foundation

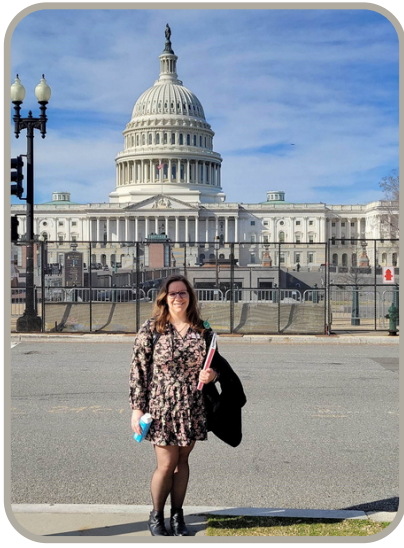


Hayli DeJong - SDSU



Carissa Koerner -USF





Morgan Stadler from NSU attending the NASFAA Leadership Conference.

2023 Calendar of Events

By Kristy O'Kief Western Dakota Tech

RMASFAA Summer Institute:
June 4-8, 2023 Wichita, KS

NASFAA Conference:
June 29- July 2, 2023 San Diego, CA

NASFAA Conference:
July 10-13, 2023 Virtual

High School Counselor Workshop:
September 6-14, 2023

- Sept. 6, Northern State University, Aberdeen
- Sept. 7, Lake Area Technical College, Watertown
- Sept. 11, Western Dakota Technical College, Rapid City
- Sept. 12, Dept. of Education MacKay Bldg, Pierre
- Sept. 13, Mitchell Technical College, Mitchell
- Sept. 14, Southeast Technical College, Sioux Falls

RMASFAA Conference:
October 8-11, 2023 Fort Collins, CO

2023 SDASFAA Fall Training:
November 14-15, 2023
Arrowwood Resort, Oacoma, SD

FSA Training Conference:
November 28 – December 1, 2023 Virtual

2024 SDASFAA Spring Conference:
TBD Sioux Falls, SD

FAFSA Simplification: What updates must we make in the upcoming year?

By Lindsay Miller University of South Dakota

While many of the extreme changes in the FAFSA Simplification Act aren't taking place until the 2024-2025 award year, there are still many changes to implement in the upcoming 2023-2024 award year.

The FAFSA changes for the 2023-2024 school year won't have a dramatic impact on applicants or their families. Financial aid administrators have been charged with the bulk of the responsibility of the requirements taking place in 2023-2024. Offices are always hard at work trying to incorporate the ever changing federal regulations and now we have some added responsibilities.

Here are just a few of the changes to expect in 23-24:

Cost of Attendance

- Institutions should move towards updating the new COA terms. Instead of using 'room and board', institutions should refer to these expenses as 'housing and food'. If you're like me and have been in the financial aid industry for quite some time, this one is difficult to get used to.
- On campus housing allowances must be calculated based on the higher of the average or median charge assessed.
- The food component of the COA must be enough to cover three meals per day for students who choose institutionally owned or operated food services, which includes institutionally contracted food services from a third party.
- The cost of obtaining a license, certification, or first professional credential is no longer a one-time allowance and is a mandatory COA component.
- The Act expands current consumer information requirements by mandating that each institution must make COA information publicly on its website and must include a list of all the COA elements and must appear on any portion of the website that describes tuition and fees.

Professional Judgment

- Institutions can no longer maintain a policy of denying all PJ requests, they must publicize the availability of PJ, and you may use a dependency override determination from a financial aid administrator at another institution.
- Schools must presume that any student who has obtained a dependency override to be independent for each subsequent award year at the same institution unless the student notifies you that their circumstances have changed or if the school has conflicting information about the student's independent status.

Dependency Status for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Foster Care Youth

- ED has confirmed that renewal applicants with an eligible homeless youth, foster care youth, orphan, ward of the court, emancipated minor, or legal guardianship flag on their 2022-2023 FAFSA will have their answers to these questions carried over and pre-populated on the 2023-2024 FAFSA although students will be required to reaffirm their answers to those questions when they are completing their renewal FAFSA.

Changes to the 2023-2024 FAFSA.

- The Selective Service registration and drug conviction questions are removed.
- Students with a previous determination of independence due to homelessness on one of the 3 questions, those answers are now eligible for renewal.

How has your office dealt with the required changes? Have you made all of the updates to your website and cost of attendance elements?



**Sara Edwards - Citizens
Vice President, Relationship Manager**

How many years in Financial Aid and tell us your journey of how you got into the business:

I have been in the industry for 30 years. I have always been on the associate member side of the industry and started at a small bank in St Joseph, MO that was offering the federal student loans to help their customers in the state of MO!

Tell us about your family:

I am married to my husband Jim and we have been married 45 years and have two children, Nicole and Jimmy. Jimmy and his wife Cortney have our first grandchild, Elle who is 22 months old!

Who do you look up to?

My parents! They have always put faith and family first and showed their children to work hard and be respectful!

What's your favorite memory?

Meeting my first grandchild! Nothing better!

What's the best place you've traveled to?

I LOVE Cape Cod and Nantucket! So beautiful and fun.

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Volunteer

By Brenda Wipf University of Sioux Falls

Volunteer. To Freely offer to do something. Contribution of time, effort and talent to a need, cause or mission without financial gain. Eighty Percent of employees believe that group volunteering strengthens their relationships with colleagues. Seventy-four percent of employees believe volunteering provides them with a sense of purpose.

Brad Barnett, NASFAA National Chair and Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, had this to say when asked how volunteering contributed to his career in financial aid, "Simply put, I don't think I would be where I am today if it wasn't for volunteering. I expanded my personal knowledge in Financial Aid dramatically by being exposed to so many different people at different types institutions with different experiences than what I have and what I bring to the table. I've grown personally and I've grown professionally by volunteering."

Carissa Koerner, Associate Director of Financial at the University of Sioux Falls and the 2022 Outstanding Service Award recipient echoed Barnett's response, "Volunteering has had a big impact on me, but I think the most important thing I have gained is confidence. Five or six years ago, I would have been terrified to speak up at a SDASFAA conference or board meeting, not to mention a RMASFAA gathering. Now I have the confidence to add to the conversation and I have friends in the room whom I know respect my contributions."

Both Barnett and Koerner had encouragement for others to volunteer. Barnett said, "In volunteering you are being a part of something that is just bigger than you. It is even bigger than your school. You have the opportunity to impact the lives of not only students, which we do on a day to day basis, but you have the opportunity to impact your fellow Financial Aid officers and help encourage them on their journey and help them develop those relationships and networks and find meaning and purposes in what they do in things that might just be bigger than some of the day to day processing that they do in their office. I encourage everyone to get their hands, in some point and time, in a volunteer opportunity. I think what you will find is that it just makes your work more rewarding."

In Koerner's perspective, "Honestly, if you are not volunteering, you are missing out on a huge part of being in Financial Aid. This job is too hard and stressful to go it alone. Volunteering will give you friends, lifelines when you are stressed, and confidence to keep going!"



Don't miss out on a great opportunity!



**Carin Carstens - ScholarNet
Regional Vice President - Sales**

How many years in Financial Aid and your journey of how you got into the business:

I graduated from a small town in Minnesota in 1997 and moved to the big city of Sioux Falls, SD that summer. I had always worked during high school but knew I had to find something different before I started college. I was really wanting to work someplace fun in the mall or as a waitress but my dad talked me into applying for a job at Norwest Student Loans as the loan processor. He mentioned something about a 401K, stock, good insurance and that all went in one ear and out the other. After some lengthy discussions, I agreed to try the job for a couple of months. Fast forward 26 years later, here I am, still in the financial aid industry. I spent 23 years at Norwest/Wells Fargo and the past 2.5 years at ScholarNet. I can't say enough about this industry and all the wonderful people I have met along the way. I am truly blessed.

Tell us about your family:

My husband is Jeff and we have a 4 year old daughter, Cambrie. I also have a 25 year old step-son, Carter. I have 2 brothers, along with their beautiful wives/kids that live in the twin cities area. My parents lived in Adrian, MN their entire life until 5 years ago when they decided to move closer to their favorite child. ME! I always have to tease my brothers about that. I also have an enormous amount of aunts/uncles/cousins that I spend a lot of time with.

Who do you look up to?

My parents/daughter. My parents have been married 52 years and are the best example to all of us. They have so much fun together. They worked so hard their entire lives and never once had an argument in front of us kids. I'm sure they argued but we never saw it. They are still each other's best friends and my mom his nurse the last 30 years. My dad has battled through multiple heart attacks, open heart surgery, prostate cancer, stomach cancer and has been fighting bladder cancer the past 7 years. He still is the life of the party and has fun every day. What a trooper! My daughter was born at 29 weeks. She weighed in at a whopping 2.1 lbs. After 77 days in the NICU and months home with a heart monitor and oxygen, she is now a healthy 4 year old!

What's your favorite memory?

Any chance to spend with family always becomes a favorite memory and anything we do with Cambrie as well. I never knew how much I needed to be a mom until I had her.

What's the best place that you've traveled to?

I love Puerto Vallarta or anyplace with a beach and a pool.



**2023 Summer Institute Scholarship Recipient
Stephen Detlefs - Black Hills State University**

Carin Carstens

Regional Vice President - Sales

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We hope you enjoyed the newsletter! 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, Tracey Buisker, Sharon Martin, Lindsay Miller, Kristy O'Kief and Brenda Wipf