

2025 SDASFAA AWARDS CEREMONY

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

The Lodge at Deadwood

Deadwood, South Dakota



RECOGNITION OF 2025 COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

For service as a volunteer on a SDASFAA committee for 2025

2025-26 Training Committee

Cathy Mueller, MYF - Chair

Carissa Koerner, USF – Vice Chair

Kim Nida, SDSMT

Alyssa Blake, BHSU

Sharon Martin, WDT

Becky Pribyl, NSU

2025 Review Committee

Sara Edwards, Citizens – Chair

Carissa Koerner, USF

Becky Pribyl, NSU

2025 Recognition Committee

Sydney Chapman, SDSU – Chair

Tracey Buisker, SDSU

Kristy O’Kief, WDT

2025 Communication & Website Committee

Kim Nida, SDSMT – Chair

Kristy O’Kief, WDTC – Vice Chair

Ashley Doran, SDSU

Mindy Haerer, NAU

Beth Vollar, SDSU

2026 Spring Conference Committee

Tracey Buisker, SDSU – Chair

Tirzah Knight, BHSU – Vice Chair

Dan Garrity, ISL Education Lending

Shyan Smith, SDSU

Erin Richards, SDSMT

Stephanie Frank, SDSU

Carissa Koerner, USF

Alyssa Blake, BHSU

Sara Edwards, Citizens

Sydney Chapman, SDSU

2025 Membership & Records Committee

Tirzah Knight, BHSU – Chair

Morgan Stadler, NSU – Vice Chair

Carin Carstens, ScholarNet – Associate Representative

Carissa Koerner, USF

Carrie Jordanger, LATI

2025 Fall Training Committee

Morgan Stadler, NSU – Chair

Mindy Haerer, NAU

Mary Alexander, DWU

Renae Mills, SDSU

Sharon Martin, WDT

RECOGNITION OF 2025 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tracey Buisker, SDSU - President Sydney

Chapman, SDSU - Past-President

Tirzah Knight, SDSU - President-elect

Kim Nida, SDSMT -Secretary

Morgan Stadler, NSU - Treasurer

Mary Alexandar, SDSU - Member-at-Large

Mindy Haerer, SDSU - Member-at-Large

Sara Edwards, Citizens Bank - Associate Member-at-Large

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

This award began in 1995 to recognize SDASFAA members who have dedicated many years to the financial aid profession. Starting at 10 years, members are recognized every 5 years thereafter.

10 Years

Greg Binstock, Augustana University
Jill Elder, Western Dakota Technical College

15 years

Mary Alexander, Dakota Wesleyan University
Kristy Ehlebracht, Dakota Wesleyan University
Karrie Morgan, University of Sioux Falls

25 Years

Emily Studenski, Augustana University
Lynette Robson, Southeast Technical
University

40 Years

Cheryl Bullinger, National American University

DOUGLAS STECKLER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

This award was established by the SDASFAA Executive Council May 26, 1992 in remembrance of Doug Steckler, the first SDASFAA President who died April 22, 1992 at age 69. The purpose of the award is to recognize one member for service to the association. The Douglas Steckler Professional Development Award is presented at the annual meeting by the Recognition Committee from nominations solicited from the membership-at-large. It includes a plaque and a \$100 voucher to be used for professional development at the recipient's discretion during the following year.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

This award was established by the SDASFAA Executive Council in 1994. The purpose of the award is to recognize a member for service to the association over a considerable time through professional contributions and leadership. Awarded to one member annually who is nominated from the membership-at-large.