Dear FASFAA Family,

I hope you are off to a great start in 2018-19!

This year’s theme is the Road Map to Success, which will encompass many trainings, networking and volunteer opportunity checkpoints for all levels of experience in the financial aid community. The 2019 Annual FASFAA Conference is being held at the beautiful Coconut Pointe Spa and Resort in Bonita Springs, Florida. Please hop aboard the Road Map to Success from May 21-24, 2019.

We also encourage you to visit the FASFAA website and newly designed Annual Conference page often to keep abreast of upcoming training events and other important news in the world of FASFAA and beyond. Lastly, we hope to have inspired you to get involved! Please visit our website and complete a volunteer form. We’ll be in contact and will work alongside you as we all give back to the financial aid community. Thank you for the opportunity to be your servant leader!

Respectfully,

David Alexander, MBA
2018-19 FASFAA President
Greetings FASFAA Members and Friends,

We, Nathan Basford and Merrian King, could not be more excited about serving as conference co-chairs for the 2019 FASFAA Annual Conference. The conference venue is the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa in Bonita Springs, Florida. Join us from Tuesday, May 21 through Friday, May 24, 2019.

The conference committee is working diligently to ensure this year’s conference program meets the needs of our financial aid professionals. New and returning attendees will have the opportunity to attend several training and information sessions, including state/federal updates, for provision of important material to their respective institutions. Information and training received will build the knowledge base of those involved and assist institutions in providing excellent customer service to students seeking to further their education.

We hope the conference will be an exciting and rewarding experience for each of you. If you will be a first-time attendee, we are glad you are joining us. Please be sure to visit the new member table and do not hesitate to ask questions. If you will be a returning conference attendee, we look forward to seeing you again!

As you travel the “Roadmap to Success,” designed with you in mind, enjoy the conference with its many sessions and activities planned. Be a part of the pre-conference workshops offered on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, the general and concurrent sessions on Wednesday, May 22 through Friday, May 24, 2019. Also, Bingo is back. You will have the opportunity to mingle with friends and show off your talent at our annual karaoke night.

On behalf of the 2019 conference committee, it is a pleasure to welcome you to our Annual FASFAA Conference! We look forward to seeing everyone and hope the connections and friendships made will last for years to come.

Sincerely,

Nathan Basford
Merrian King
2019 Conference Co-Chairs
A CALL TO SERVE!
Nominations for Elected Positions

What does it mean to serve FASFAA and its members? Are you ready to serve? Do you have the support it takes? Are you asking yourself these questions? If you are, that’s a good thing; it means you are on the right track to volunteering to serve in an elected position.

What does it mean to serve FASFAA and its members?
Serving FASFAA and its members means you are willing to give of your time, skills and knowledge. Do you possess the following: leadership skills, a drive to complete the tasks assigned, the ability to stick to deadlines and honor commitments, a drive to plan a successful event, the willingness to ask for help when needed? If you can answer yes, then you have what it takes to serve FASFAA as an elected officer.

Are you ready to serve?
Are you willing to dedicate your resources with the members of FASFAA for a term of 1 - 2 years? Do you like working with a group of like-minded individuals who enjoy giving back as much as you do? Are you a team player? If you are, then you are ready to serve.

Do you have the support it takes?
Now that you know what it means to serve and you have discovered you are ready to serve, it is important that you have the support you will need. Is your supervisor or your administration supportive of your involvement? Is your family supportive? You will need to have the commitment of support from both. You may need to have a day or two away from the office occasionally to attend in-person meetings. You may also need to participate in workshops, conference calls, etc.

Seeking Nominations
Nominate yourself or a peer to serve FASFAA on the 2019-2020 Executive board. Send all nominations to the chair of the nominations committee: Daniel Barkowitz at DBarkowitz@ValenciaCollege.edu.

The following positions are available: (Primary Duties as follows)

- **President Elect**: This position requires a three-year commitment, first as the president elect, the second year as the president and the final year as the immediate past president.

  Duties:
  1. Presides at all meetings in the absence of the President
  2. Prepares a proposed Association budget for the ensuing year as President
  3. Responsible for selecting the chairperson of the conference committee for the annual conference during their year as President
  4. Chairs the nomination and election committee
  5. Performs all duties as designated by the President or required by the Association
• **Secretary:** This position requires a two-year commitment.

Duties:
1. Is the scribe of the Association who shall take or arrange to have taken, and keep in permanent form, the minutes of the Executive Board and of the Association.
2. Is the custodian of its records (minutes, bylaws, and the policies & procedures manual)
3. Keeps and updates the permanent file of all other official documents and materials (banners/awards/archives) and publications of the Association and/or Executive Board.
4. Attends to the giving and serving of all notices required by the bylaws of the Association or at the discretion of the President.

• **Region Representative: Region 1, 3 and 5 positions will be vacant:** This position requires a two-year commitment.

Duties:
1. Serve on the Executive Board as voting members
2. Attend all meetings of the Executive Board and shall hold and conduct regional meetings at the call of the Executive Board
3. Responsible for coordinating the events of their regions, including planning training workshops, financial aid awareness week activities and representing the interest of members of their region on the executive board.
4. Other Duties as assigned by Executive Board, Vice President, and President

The elections and nominations committee will be presenting the slate of candidates for approval to the current executive board in early spring. The approved slate of candidates will be presented to membership at least 25 days prior to the Annual Conference. Election closes during the conference and the results are announced on the final day of the conference. **Nominations deadline is 2/28/2019.**

Feel free to reach back to me with any questions!

Daniel Barkowitz

Assistant Vice President, Financial Aid and Veterans’ Affairs
Valencia College
(pronouns: “he / him / his”)
MC: 4-17, WC SSB 201-D
1800 S. Kirkman Road, Orlando, FL 32811
407.582.1458
dbarkowitz@valenciacollege.edu
November 5, 2018

Dear Florida Aid Directors,

I am David Alexander, the 2018-19 FASFAA President. I am very proud and honored to be a part of and lead this incredible association. As President, my goals and visions for this year are to:

- increase volunteerism in our state association. If you are interested in volunteering, click here.
- increase the Aid Directors participation and attendance in our association and its activities.
- ensure we have training opportunities that will benefit all aid professional levels.

FASFAA Paid Members are eligible to attend all training opportunities. You can become a member of FASFAA by completing the 2018-19 membership process by clicking Membership on the top ribbon of the FASFAA home page.

Our 2018-19 training opportunities have already started for the year.

- Last week we conducted both the Clock Hour and New Aid Officer Workshops in Orlando. It was a remarkable success!
- We also have our regional workshops that are conducted each semester, Fall and Spring. You can continue to watch our website to see when the Spring workshops are scheduled, below is a list of our previous Fall workshops:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region Workshop</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Fall Region I Workshop was canceled due to Hurricane Michael.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Region II Workshop</td>
<td>Friday, Nov. 9</td>
<td>Keiser University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Region III Workshop</td>
<td>Friday, Nov. 9</td>
<td>Valencia College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Region IV Workshop</td>
<td>The workshop was held on October 26, 2018.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Region V Workshop</td>
<td>Friday, Nov. 9</td>
<td>Keiser University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The conference committee has begun their work to provide our membership the “premier” annual training conference to be held on May 21-24, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa in Bonita Springs, Florida. The theme is “Roadmap to Success.” It will be comprised of Pre-Conference Workshops, Full Conference Agenda that will include NASFAA Credential opportunities and various sessions for all sectors, levels and types of Financial Aid Administrators (FAA’s). Whether you are 2-year to 4-year, public to private sector, new aid to executive/director level, or undergraduate to graduate professional level, there will be training sessions for all! For more information, including, but limited to sessions and topics, visit Annual Conference page under Activities and Events located on the top ribbon of our website.

Thank you for your continued support of FASFAA. We encourage you and your staff to participate in FASFAA training opportunities throughout the year. I look forward to the opportunity to meet you or your staff.

Best Regards,

David Alexander, MBA
2018-19 FASFAA President
From October 30th to November 2nd, FASFAA’s Clock Hour chair, Kim Philips and I hosted a combined Clock Hour and New Aid Officer workshop. There were a total of 84 combined attendees; 69 of them attended the Clock Hour workshop, 10 of the attendees attended both workshops and 15 attended the New Aid Officer workshop. We had attendees that were brand new to the financial aid world with less than two weeks of FA experience!

Clock Hour presenters included our favorite FED, Dave Bartnicki and Donald Gibson, VA Certifying Official from Valencia College. Dave wowed the audience with his financial aid rap produced by his son. FASFAA President, David Alexander, kicked off the sessions with a welcome and quick FASFAA update. New Aid Officers were treated to presentations by Daniel Barkowitz, FASFAA’s own President-elect. There were also two opportunities for NASFAA credential training on Cost of Attendance and Packaging and Award Notification. Thank you to Eileen Brzozowski and Kylie Gross for providing the NASFAA trainings!

As we continue to mention, the best way to help FASFAA succeed is to volunteer – get involved in any way you can, the reward is invaluable! Another way to contribute is to become a presenter at our annual conference in May. Here are some of the requested topics. If you’re interested in presenting or leading a panel discussion on any of these or your own unique topic, please click on the following link to the FASFAA conference page to submit your Request for Presentation by 11/16/18:

- Cyber Security
- Campus Safety & Security
- Disaster Preparedness (Prepare Staff and Institution)
- FSA Disaster Guidance
- Diversity
- Professional Judgement (PJ/Bias)
- Enrollment Management (FA role in EM/EM Best Practices/Student Success and Retention)
- Leadership
- Verification
- Tax Reform and DRT
- Compliance Calendar
- Consumer Information Disclosures
- Satisfactory Academic Progress
- Application Processing (include new FSA website & Mobile App)
- Return to Title IV (R2T4)
- Title IX (9)
- Technology Solutions
- Professional Development

Nadine Bailey, FASFAA VP of Training
Kim Phillips, FASFAA Clock Hour Chair
The Fall 2018 Region III Workshop was Friday, November 9, 2018, at the Valencia College, West Campus. The workshop was a great success and we had about 30 attendees.

We had many interesting topics covered at the workshop including: Effectively Communicating Complex Financial Aid to Today’s Students; Mental Health and OUR Students; Work/Life Balance; Hidden Biases; How to Create a Financial Aid Reference Manual; and State Updates.

We raised $82 toward the scholarship fund. The 50/50 raffle winner was Dr. Karemah Manselle from the University of Central University, which she donated back to the scholarship. Thank you and congratulations Dr. Manselle!

I would like to thank all the presenters who “volunteered” to present during the workshop. I could not have done this without your willingness to help! Also, a special thank you to Valencia College, West Campus for the use of Building 1, Room 113.

As we move forward, always remember the best way to help the FASFAA organization succeed is to volunteer and get involved any way you can. The reward is invaluable and the experience is priceless! Please make sure that you subscribe to the Region III listserv on FASFAA so you can get email updates. Thanks again!

The bill establishes the “Florida Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2018” which, among other modifications, expands merit-based and need-based financial aid funding available to students to help address the financial needs of students and their families.

Specifically the bill:

- Modifies the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to allow:
  - Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) award amount to cover 100 percent of public postsecondary education institution tuition and specified fees, plus $300 per fall and spring for textbooks and college-related expenses.
  - Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award amount to cover 75 percent of public postsecondary education institution tuition and specified fees, beginning in the fall 2018 semester.

- Expands the Benacquisto Scholarship Program for qualified students from out-of-state who enroll in a baccalaureate degree program in the 2018-2019 academic year or thereafter; and who meet the specified requirements to qualify for the scholarship. The bill exempts students from the payment of out-of-state fees and specifies that the award amount for the students is equal to the institutional cost of attendance for a Florida resident less the student’s National Merit Scholarship.

- Creates the Florida Farmworker Scholarship Program for farmworkers and the children of farmworkers, who meet the specified scholarship eligibility criteria. The bill requires the Department of Education to award up to 50 scholarships annually. The recipient is eligible for an award equal to 100 percent of tuition and specified fees at a public postsecondary education institution in Florida. Undocumented immigrants are not eligible for the award.

- Expands the First Generation Matching Grant Program by revising the state to private match requirements from a 1:1 match to a 2:1 match, and codifies the inclusion of Florida College System institutions as eligible program participants.

- Renames the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program as the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program.
OSFA’s Speakers’ Bureau continues its mission to facilitate higher education access and services by providing exemplary customer attentiveness, comprehensive financial aid information, plus convenient and efficient products. Many postsecondary institutions have partnered with OSFA to provide coverage for financial aid presentations and Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) labs requested throughout the state.

During the 2018 fall semester, for the period ending October 2018, OSFA’s Outreach Services coordinated 82 events and delivered 278,138 pieces of corresponding financial aid literature. We are presently working with schools impacted by Hurricane Michael to reschedule events, as needed. OSFA is appreciative to everyone participating in these events. Your flexibility, accessibility and graciousness in this partnership with the Speakers’ Bureau is a testament to your commitment in serving students. OSFA appreciates your allegiance and looks forward to an enduring partnership.

Financial Aid Night/FAFSA Lab Coaching:

OSFA staff will collaborate with high schools and community groups to evaluate financial aid night plus FAFSA’s labs online toolkits, located at www.NavigatingYourFuture.org.

Train-the-Trainer Sessions:

If you or a staff member desire to be a presenter at your upcoming event, OSFA will be pleased to provide a train-the-trainer session to review the Financial Aid Overview presentation or furnish guidance in assisting with a FAFSA Lab. OSFA will continue to facilitate answering student questions.

Navigating Your Financial Future:

Reminder: Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF) is a website created by OSFA to bolster financial skills of young adults via financial aid awareness and financial literacy education. We will furnish resources for your institutions to utilize when supplying information for your students. Your time is indispensable; therefore, why reinvent the wheel? OSFA has identified vast resources for you through NyFF and other partnering entities, while providing them to you for free, with easy access online at: www.NavigatingYourFuture.org.

Outreach Services Unit

Pete Hernandez | 850-245-1821 |
Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org
Saint Leo University is proud to announce that our Associate Vice President of Student Financial Services, Melinda Clark, has earned a Doctorate of Education in Organizational Change and Leadership from the University of Southern California. Dr. Clark completed the rigorous program in only 2.5 years. The bulk of the program was conducted online. However, the program required that Dr. Clark attend two immersion experiences. These involved several sessions of 4-day long intensive class work on the actual campus.

When asked why she chose to pursue a doctorate program, Dr. Clark responded, “I pursued the EdD because I have a passion for higher education. I want to help identify and participate in the change that is currently needed in higher education. Plus, I am a lifelong learner. A doctorate degree has been on my ‘bucket list’.”

Dr. Clark continues to make improvements in the realm of financial aid at Saint Leo University. Recently, under her guidance, the new Student Financial Services department was created. This department combines the essential functions of financial aid and student accounts into one cohesive operational unit. Student Financial Services provides a seamless customer service experience for students and is a true student financial one-stop shop on the phone, by email, and in person (for University campus students).

Pictured above is Dr. Melinda Clark, Associate Vice President of Student Financial Services at Saint Leo University, after earning her Doctorate of Education in Organizational Change and Leadership from the University of Southern California.
The Bonnie L. Pirkle Scholarship awarded $10,000 worth of scholarships to students across the state this past academic year. Recipients were chosen by those members volunteering and sitting on the 2017-18 FASFAA board. Each elected member was able to choose a recipient(s) from their institution to further education goals of the student(s). This year’s recipients are listed below.

- $5,000 - President (David Alexander) - Purdue University Global - Recipient: 5 recipients will be awarded $1,000 each in November 2018
- $625.00 - Vice President (Kamia Mwango) - Santa Fe College - Recipient: Carlos Wilson
- $625 - Secretary (Denise Asselta) - Valencia College, Orlando, FL - Recipient: Dave Barr
- $625 - Treasurer (Gail Rogers) - Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL - Recipient: Brianna Killings
- $625 - Region I Representative (Kris Hatcher) - Gulf Coast State College, Ft. Myers, FL - Recipient: Joni Barkley
- $625 - Region II Representative (Nichole Crowley) - Keiser University, Jacksonville, FL - Recipient: Gary L. Scott
- $625 - Region III Representative (Sedrick Brinson) - Valencia College, Orlando, FL - Recipient: Prinston Derosier
- $625 - Region IV Representative (Nadine Bailey) - Ultimate Medical Academy, Tampa, FL - Recipient: Valeria Guadalajara
- $625 - Region V. Representative (Katie Conrad) – Florida International University, Miami, FL - Recipient: Nicholas Quiros

We want to thank all of our volunteer members for serving FASFAA and furthering our mission of ensuring students reach their fullest potential. The Bonnie L. Pirkle Scholarship is awarded annually and has provided over $38,000 in scholarships since it began. Please visit the scholarship page on the FASFAA website for additional information about Bonnie Pirkle and the FASFAA mission. This is a great opportunity to volunteer, assist FASFAA and colleagues, and also provide a scholarship opportunity to a student at your institution.

www.FASFAA.org

Laura Dickerson
FASFAA Scholarship Chair 2018-19
We’re excited to announce the first-ever recipient of the $5,000 Sixup Scholarship!

Meet Gaby M., a sophomore at the University of Houston majoring in History. Gaby is the first child in her family to attend college and has this to say: “I am honored to have been selected for the Sixup scholarship. This opportunity will motivate me to keep up my grades and graduate college to make my family proud. Thank you, Sixup, for this opportunity!”

Gaby has been mentored by CollegeCommunityCareer, a non-profit that helps low-income, first-generation high school students in the Houston area. "I am so happy that Gaby has been selected as the recipient of the first-ever Sixup scholarship. I have worked with Gaby for the last three years and she is deserving of this scholarship. Sixup's mission of helping high-achieving, low-income students is very much aligned with our mission,” said Kathy Rose, Executive Director of CollegeCommunityCareer.

From L to R: Carl Gordon, University of Houston Asst. Director of Financial Aid; Gaby Montejo, Scholarship Recipient; Diana Daniels, Sixup Regional Sales Executive and Kathy Rose, MBA, CEP Executive Director of CollegeCommunityCareer. #futureprime #scholarship

At Sixup, we are committed to helping deserving but underserved college students achieve their dreams by supporting them with our scholarship and achievement-based loans.

ABOUT SIXUP

Sixup Lending provides student loans and digital wrap-around services for high-achieving, low-income students. Through an outcomes-based credit model, Sixup has built an ethical system to fund and support underserved students with responsible, affordable gap loans that promote college success for economic mobility.

If the applicant has a credit history, it will be considered in the loan approval and the interest rate. In certain cases, based on assessment of academic and other factors, a positive credit score may be required. Borrowers must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents and reside in an eligible state. For CA residents: Loans made or arranged pursuant to a California Finance Lender Law License.
Global Issues 101

So, what in the world is Global Services for SASFAA and FASFAA?

According to SASFAA: “The Global Issues Committee will pursue the multifarious focuses of enhancing the inclusivity of its membership to reflect the demographics of the student population it serves; will serve as the diversity subject matter leader and nexus for other SASFAA committees, and member state committees with similar focuses, and will pursue these goals to ensure the best inclusive financial aid practices.”

Ok, that’s great. What’s diversity and inclusivity?

Diversity is variety and difference in the ways that a person can identify, the uniqueness within humanity. This includes but is not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin, and political beliefs.

Inclusion is celebrating the strength found among those differences and making a conscious effort to promote a sense of community, equality, fairness, respect and worth for everyone that is not based on any preconceived judgement or requirement to “fit.”

Why is it important? Why should I care?

Diversity and inclusion helps us reflect the communities and students we assist, and make them feel more comfortable. When students and parents identify with some of the people who are supporting them, there are often less feelings of inadequacy or of not belonging. This can be especially true of first generation students. While it’s not always 100% possible to do, many communities and organizations strive to reflect the makeup of the communities of which they are a part.

We also should be mindful that we are a part of exposing students to diversity and teaching them inclusion. We lead by example. Diversity also means that sometimes people will be different from them, will not look like them or have the same race, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical ability, national origin, political belief or intellectual ability. That is why inclusion is so important to go along with diversity.

Now that I’m interested, where can I learn more?

Our financial aid organizations, like FASFAA, will be doing articles just like these about global issues (diversity and inclusion). There will also be related professional development topics at the state and regional workshops and conferences. Stay tuned!

You can also learn about these topics from human resources training publications like Diverse Issues in Higher Education, Florida College Access Network (FCAN), the Center for Law & Social Policy (CLASP), and your school’s Diversity and/or Inclusion Office, etc. Be sure to get involved.
FASFAA Highway

Life's like a road that you travel on
When there’s one day here and the next day gone
Sometimes you bend and sometimes you stand
Sometimes you turn your back to the wind

There's a world outside every darkened door
Where blues won't haunt you anymore
Where the brave are free and lovers soar
Come ride with me to the distant shore

We won't hesitate
To break down the garden gate
There's not much time left today

Life is a highway
I wanna ride it all night long
If you're going my way
I wanna drive it all night long

Rascal Flats, “Life is a Highway”

It may be a cliché, but it bears repeating – if you don’t know where you are going, how will you know when you get there? If you are ever unsure, turn to a map (the OG GPS)!

Maps serve an important purpose. They move us forward down life's highway, steering us in a positive direction and help to aim us towards our destination.

This year's FASFAA theme is “Roadmap to Success.” In choosing this theme, President David Alexander hoped to encourage us all to be deliberate about the steps we take in moving our colleges, our colleagues and our careers forward. If we know our pathway forward and take the necessary steps, we each can arrive at our end goals.

Maps don’t write themselves, though. Every map needs a mapmaker, someone who has the vision, care and problem-solving skills needed to design a roadmap.

And here’s where you come in!

FASFAA is looking for some excellent mapmakers / volunteers to help us design our “Roadmap to Success”.

You will soon be receiving a call for nominations to the Executive Board for the 2019-20 election. The positions available are:

- **President-Elect.** This is a three-year position; the first year as President-Elect, the second as President, and the third as Past President. The President serves as the “mapmaker” for our association, setting the goals, leading the team, and helping to chart our pathway forward.

- **Secretary.** This is a two-year position. The Secretary is our official record-keeper, maintains the minutes for our meetings, and notifies membership and leadership of upcoming meetings as required by our bylaws and policies. Think of the Secretary like our
“navigator”; without her or his leadership, we would go off-course.

- **Region Representatives (Regions I, III, and V).** Each one of these regional representative positions are for two years. The Regional Representatives serve as the liaison between those members of the association who work in their region and the members of the Board. Regional representatives also offer regional training sessions, optimally twice a year, with topics of interest to FASFAA members in their region. These Regional Reps are our local folks “on the ground”. If the President is a mapmaker, they are the local surveyors measuring the impact of FASFAA in their local communities.

![Region Maps](https://fasfaa.memberclicks.net/assets/media/fasfaa_regionmaps.png)

All of these members of FASFAA’s Executive Board provide important guidance and leadership to FASFAA. If you are interested in learning more about any of these roles, please feel free to reach out to me to learn more.

But what if you feel like you are still learning how to read a map, and don’t yet feel ready to write one?

FASFAA has a place for you too! We are always in need of volunteers to help the association provide the services our members expect. Each of our committees is in need of dedicated and hardworking volunteers who are seeking to make an impact in the lives of our students and parents. You can read more about the opportunities to volunteer and fill out a volunteer form at [https://www.fasfaa.org/volunteer](https://www.fasfaa.org/volunteer).

Volunteers are the lifeblood that keep our association moving down our Roadmap to Success. When the call comes to help us work on our Roadmap together, will you answer it?
So maybe you’re asking the next question: sure I want to help out, but what’s in it for me – and more importantly – what’s in it for my institution?

There are many benefits to being a volunteer with FASFAA. Here are just some of them:

1. Make connections and network. Volunteering with FASFAA is a great way to meet people. The people you meet within the association may turn out to be your peer, your employee, or your boss. Imagine how much better your interview for your next position will go if you can chat with the interviewer about work you did together at FASFAA to help support a committee. Maybe you will meet colleagues through FASFAA who become your friends; maybe you will find a mentor or mentee who helps you develop your skills; maybe you will meet your “go to” resource who is just a phone call away when you need them.

2. Learn new ways of doing things. Many of us work at places where it has always been done the same way (no matter what the “it” is). Becoming involved with FASFAA gives you a chance to chat with peers that do the same work you do, but may do it very differently. Learning from others about how they handle issues at their institutions is often one of the best benefits of your involvement.
3. Get a sneak peek at what’s coming. Because board meetings and committee meetings have representation from many parts of the financial aid and educational sectors, they are a great place to learn about the latest financial aid news, both at the state and national level. This can be a huge benefit to your institution as you find out about changes to programs, regulations, or policies long before you would otherwise.

4. Learn how to overcome objections and make the best use of your work time. If you are worried that your boss might turn down your request to volunteer with FASFAA, now is a great time to work on overcoming her or his objections. Here are some objections you might be worried you will hear, and the best way to overcome them:
   a. “You’ll be out of the office too many times.” First, we all know that work comes first. Our volunteer work is important, but making sure that the office is functional is our first priority. That said, often meetings for FASFAA can be done through conference calls, webinars, or in other ways that minimize your out-of-office time. Also, planning ahead for FASFAA meetings which are out-of-the-office means that you may be more productive with your in-office time!
   b. “No one else has asked to volunteer” / “Everyone else has asked to volunteer.” Your request for support for volunteering is just that: your request. As part of a professional development plan which helps with your growth, involvement with your association is of great benefit to you (and to your institution). And different people have different roles. Unless you and a peer are on the same committee, it is unlikely that you will be asked to volunteer at the same time.
   c. “What’s in it for the institution”? See above! Between advanced notice of upcoming issues, exploring different ways to do things, and learning from sister institutions, there are so many benefits to your institution which far outweigh any costs.

So, in summary, “Life is a Highway.” Come join us and ride the FASFAA Highway all night long! Together we will build a very strong Roadmap to Success.

Your action steps:

1. Look for an email from Daniel Barkowitz announcing the opening of nominations for the 2019-20 year and advance your name or that of a colleague.
2. Visit https://www.fasfaa.org/volunteer and fill out the Volunteer form expressing your interest in any relevant committees!
Gulf Coast State College took a direct hit from Hurricane Michael on October 10, 2018. Several buildings were heavily damaged and we ended up being closed for 27 days. Some of those buildings are still uninhabitable and many of our students unfortunately lost their homes, jobs, and ability to continue academically.

Our Foundation has received several hurricane relief donations already and my financial aid office has partnered with them to award $500 emergency grants to impacted students. More students have applied for those emergency grants than that funding will allow however so I am writing to humbly request donations from the FASFAA family. If you can donate, even a small amount, then you would be helping a student in dire need. Please visit http://www.gcccfoundation.org for more information.

Sincerely,

Kris Hatcher, Region I Representative
DID YOU KNOW?
1 IN 6 INDIVIDUALS IN LEE COUNTY ARE CONSIDERED FOOD INSECURE

Each year, FASFAA selects and sponsors a charity that is local to the conference city. For the 2019 Annual Conference, FASFAA has selected Community Cooperative of Lee County!

FASFAA is hosting a Food Drive to benefit Community Cooperative. Join us as we help to end food insecurity. Please refer to the wish list for the most needed food items. However, anything your family eats, another family would most likely enjoy! Food Items will be collected during the 2019 Annual Conference in Bonita Springs, May 21-24, 2019.

Feeling competitive? There will be a competition between the regions to see who can collect the most food! Which region will win this year?

Community Cooperative:
Since 1984, Community Cooperative has worked to end hunger and homelessness in Lee County with headquarters in Fort Myers and Fort Myers Beach, and mobile services throughout greater Lee County. In addition to serving upwards of 200,000 meals each year through Community Cafes and Meals on Wheels, it provides homeless and comprehensive life coaching services, oversees eight emergency mobile food pantries and supplies more than 500,000 pounds of food to hungry school children and their families through the Growing Healthy Kids School Mobile Food Pantry Programs.
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