



# Hello FASFAA Family!

## A Message from Your FASFAA President

Welcome to the first edition of the FASFAA newsletter for the 2020-2021 year! I hope that you, your family and loved ones are doing well. In this time of distress throughout our state, country and the world, I am proud to say that your FASFAA executive board is working hard to make sure we provide you with a sense of normalcy. If you read the President's Welcome I sent out in July, I outlined my goals and objectives for this year. If you haven't read it, take a minute or two to do so. The message discusses our value proposition (what we feel are the most important benefits of membership) and what this means to us as a group of **servant leaders**.

At times our purpose falls into our laps. As we do often in times of crisis, we rise to the occasion. This is no different. I would also like to take a moment to remind you of FASFAA's Diversity Statement: We acknowledge the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals and are committed to creating and maintaining an environment that is inclusive and respects diversity. We will continue to do our utmost to be an organization that is represented by individuals from a variety of ethnicities, cultures, backgrounds, and experiences.

I am happy to say that this statement is a true representation of the composition of your board and our Global Issues chair will be sharing more information about initiatives for this year in our next edition.

This is, without a doubt the most difficult year in the history of the association, but we are committed to continuing to provide excellent training and professional development programs for you throughout the year. We've already had three excellent webinars and are planning more which you will read about later. There may be division within our country but FASFAA stands united in our commitment to you, our members. Thank you for your support and cooperation. Thank you to the volunteers who are always ready to lend a hand to help. Without you, we wouldn't be able to accomplish our goals. Thank to the members of the executive board for their selfless service to the association and personal support to me during this historic year.

With Respect,  
**Dameion Lovett, FASFAA President 2020-2021**



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## MESSAGE FROM YOUR FASFAA VICE-PRESIDENT



### FASFAA Members,

I know that this report should be coming from Sedrick Brinson, however, Sedrick had to resign his position on FASFAA and I have willingly stepped in. We wish Sedrick all the best on this new adventure in his professional journey.

According to Dictionary.com, volunteerism is “the policy or practice of volunteering one's time or talents for charitable, educational, or other worthwhile activities, especially in one's community.”

That's what I love to do for FASFAA. 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!

This Fall we have a lot to offer our members with webinars and a virtual clock hour workshop, you can learn more by visiting our website [www.fasfaa.org](http://www.fasfaa.org). Our Region Reps are also collaborating on ensuring that you have training opportunities you have come to enjoy. The Conference Committee is already in full planning mode for the annual conference, so check your emails and our website often, the call for proposals will be sent shortly.

FASFAA has a little bit something for everyone. If there is a topic you would be interested in seeing presented, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

**Nadine Bailey, FASFAA VP of Training**

*That's what I love to do for FASFAA. 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!*

### LEAP PROGRAM

FASFAA's 2020-2021 Leadership Education for Association Professionals Program, better known as LEAP, began on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The program is designed to equip new and aspiring financial aid administrators with the resources and tools to become better leaders in our profession and provide opportunities of professional networking and involvement with FASFAA. Topics of discussion include emotional intelligence, disparities, effective communication, and much more. Participants meet once a month to engage in these topics and to meet one-on-one with their assigned mentors.

This year's program is facilitated by Jennifer Towers, Assistant Director of Training, Outreach, and Compliance at the Office for Student Financial Affairs at the University of Florida. The participants and mentors include:

Participant	Institution	Mentor	Institution
Amy Smith	University of Florida	Jeanne Schurman	Hillsborough Community College
Angelica Parrales	Valencia College	Maureen Anderson	College of Central Florida
Anissa Damon	Santa Fe College	Jennifer Bennett	University of Florida
Arminta Johnson	Eastern Florida State College	Kristopher Hatcher	Gulf Coast State College
Jacob Dirghalli	University of Florida	Tara Fitzpatrick	Ultimate Medical Academy
Marie Guerra Rosado	University of Florida	Mia Mwango	Santa Fe College
Niurka Lopez	Ave Maria University	Ivy Wilcox	Florida Agriculture & Mechanical University
Trellis Williams	University of Florida	Rachel Williams	Florida Agriculture & Mechanical University
Yakara Hernandez	Hillsborough Tech Colleges	Brenda Noblitt	University of Florida

**WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO SEE AND HEAR HOW THE LEAP PARTICIPANTS WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS PROGRAM!**

## FINANCIAL LITERACY

Greetings FASFAA members! I hope everyone is doing well working through this “new” fall term! We’ve been faced with many challenges most of us would never anticipate. However, we are strong and resilient, and our work with students will not be deterred!

I have been with Keiser University and its family of schools for 9 1/2 years, taking on the Director Default Management and Financial Literacy role in June of 2012. In this role, my goal has always been to increase the general financial awareness of our students, providing them basic tools and knowledge to enhance their growth in money matters. Working with other Association members, vendors, and faculty and staff on our campuses, we continue to build our students’ confidence from the basics of budgeting and credit to understanding the importance of savings. All with student loan information as part of the ingredients.

I believe we can cultivate and improve the functions we perform, which is why I was excited when President Lovett asked me to work on the Early Awareness/Financial Literacy Committee.

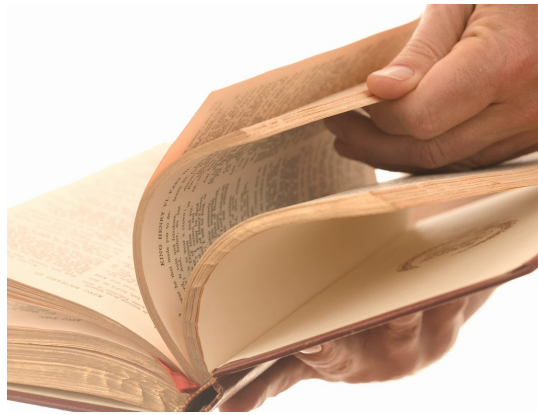
Goals that I have for this year are to continue the work initiated by those before me, building on the wealth of knowledge within our association and out, to promote financial wellness for our students (and staff and faculty, for that matter). For financial wellness, first and foremost, we want to survey the membership to understand better the state of financial wellness within the member institutions of FASFAA. (A survey has been distributed to the membership; some highlights are listed below.) Second, we would like to host a virtual financial wellness/literacy workshop later this fall or early winter. And third, host a breakout training workshop prior to or during the Annual Conference in spring of 2021.

Some notes from the survey, (a full summary of results will be sent to the membership shortly):

- Of respondents, 74% said their institution offered financial wellness services or resources.
- Of those who did not have programming, 29% said their institution planned to offer programming in the future. 100% of these were still in the “exploratory” phase.
- 85% of those currently with a program, offer to all students.
- In 85% of responses for those with a program, Financial Aid provided the information, Student Affairs/Student Success made up 38%, an Academic Department or College took 33% of the answers. (More than one selection could be made)
- Only 35% of institutions responding “mandated” students to receive financial wellness, with 57% of those targeting incoming first year students.

*With the support of President Lovett and the rest of the FASFAA membership, I truly believe we can accomplish these goals! I look forward to working with all of you this year as we build on the financial wellness of our students!*

- Geoff Stam,  
Financial Literacy Coordinator



Suzanne Evans,  
FASFAA Membership and  
Volunteer Chair

I am Suzanne Evans, the Director of Financial Aid/Veterans Affairs for St. Johns River State College in Palatka, Florida. I’ve been in Financial Aid since 2000 and I am currently serving FASFAA as the 2020-21 FASFAA Membership Chair and Volunteer Chair. My goals for this year are to maintain the Membership Records, provide outreach to past and present members to welcome them back and ensure any discrepancies with records are resolved. As the Volunteer Chair, I receive and redirect volunteers and their contact information to the appropriate FASFAA Chair they are interested in volunteering in.

<https://www.fasfaa.org/volunteer>



Teriann Wright,  
Vocational/Technical  
Clock Hour Chair

## VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL CLOCK HOUR CHAIR

My name is Teriann Wright and I am honored again to be your Vocational/Technical Clock Hour Chair for the 2020-2021 FASFAA year. During these uncharted times, I look forward to offering training opportunities for the Clock Hour sector to stay in federal compliance. **The 2020-2021 FASFAA Theme is: “See The Possibilities Expand Your Horizons”.** I hope the connections made last school year with other school departments and school Administrators (as well as the out of state quests) will continue. I will stay connected with you via upcoming emails. Please stay tuned. My goal during this school year will be to continue the great connections made, make new connections and offer more training opportunities to the clock hour sector. I am here for you as we continue this journey together. **The Virtual 2020-2021 Clock Hour Workshop is October 26-30, 2020.** We look forward to welcoming over 200 attendees as we embark on a new way to deliver clock hour sessions. Visit the [Clock Hour page](#) on the FASFAA website for more information.

# Happy Fall FASFAA Members!

Needless to say, 2020 is definitely a year to remember. The year of new norms! Face masks in public, virtual graduations, remote office visits... should I go on. With all of the changes that have taken place, one thing is for sure, 2020 has demonstrated that although we are capable financial aid professionals, we are stronger when we work together! We pull together to protect our communities, we pull together to deliver our much needed services, and we pull together to maintain traditions and values that are important to us. From where we stand, we are all modern day heroes and we are absolutely honored and grateful to work with all of you.

With this being said, we are pleased to announce that our Fall Region Workshops will be conducted virtually. Yes, you got it! We will have two virtual region workshops during the Fall. Region representatives and executive board members pulled together to bring to you two great credential trainings opportunities.

Mark your calendars for our NASFAA credential training featuring **Professional Judgement on November 13<sup>th</sup>**. Registration details and agenda will be available soon on the FASFAA Region News webpage and will also be shared with the membership via email.

As always, feel free to reach out to your Region Representative to express your thoughts and interests, or to simply say hello 😊.

Sincerely,

Your Region Representatives

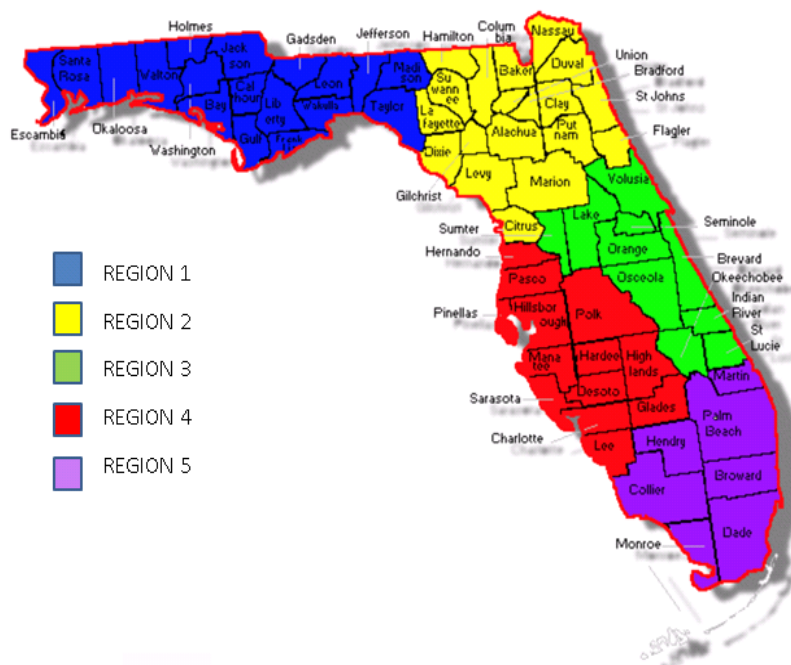
Region 1: Shana Gore, UWF

Region 2: Chas Hammond, UF

Region 3: Abigail Troche, UCF

Region 4: Kimberly Gloster, FGCU

Region 5: Jessica Ly, FIU





## OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (OSFA) UPDATE

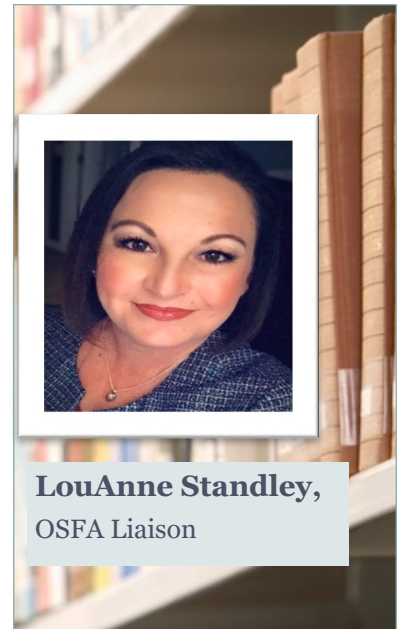
Senate Bill 72: Higher Education, Chapter 2020-117, Laws of Florida (L.O.F.) The bill revises a number of policies related to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, the Florida Student Assistance Grant Program (FSAG) and the Benacquisto Scholarship Program. Specifically, the bill modifies the scholarship programs below as follows:

### FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

- Beginning in the fall 2021 semester, Bright Futures Florida Medallion Scholarship (BFFMS) students enrolled in an associate degree program at a Florida College System (FCS) institution will receive 100 percent of tuition and specific fees. Upon completing an associate degree, a student may use his or her award to pursue a baccalaureate degree and receive 75 percent of tuition and specific fees.
- Relocates language from Florida Statutes to the General Appropriations Act with respect to the additional stipend for textbooks and college-related expenses for Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholars (BFFAS).

### FLORIDA STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM:

- Relocates language from Florida Statutes to the General Appropriations Act with respect to the Maximum Annual Award Amount. For the 2020-21 academic year, the maximum annual award amount has increased to \$3,260.
- Expands the eligible student population to students with one and one-half times the maximum Pell Grant-eligible family contribution to 8566 for the 2020-21 academic year.
- Requires institutions to report all students eligible for a disbursement.
- Initiates priority funding for FSAG recipients who are within one semester from completing a degree or certificate.
- Establishes reconciliation requirements for fall and spring term funding.
- Creates FSAG summer funding by means of requirements, deadlines, procedures and priority funding.
- Establishes specific audit requirements for each of the four FSAG programs.



**LouAnne Standley,**  
OSFA Liaison

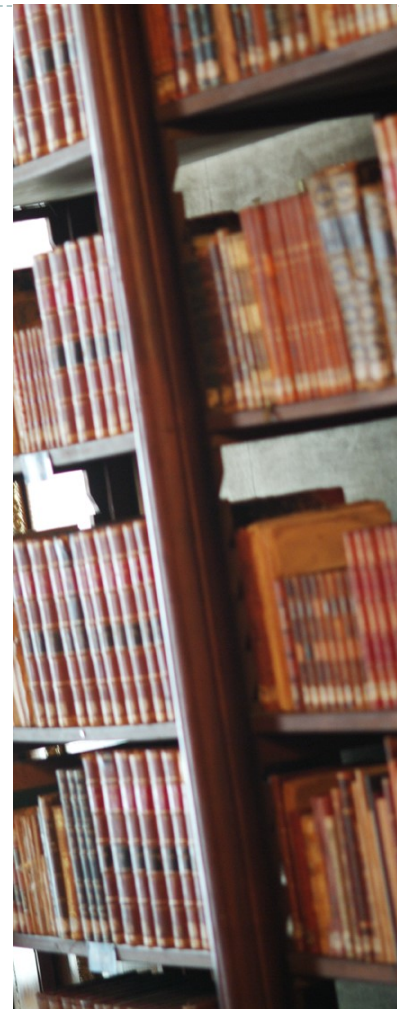
★★**UPDATES**★★

## FASFAA Upcoming Webinars:

FASFAA is pleased to offer the following trainings to you for the remainder of the year:

- ◆ October 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, Clock Hour/Technical Schools Workshop
- ◆ November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Financial Literacy Panel Discussion (Graduate/Professional Schools)
- ◆ November 4<sup>th</sup>, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) Update
- ◆ November 13<sup>th</sup>, Statewide Virtual Workshop—NASFAA U Credential, Professional Judgement

Visit the [FASFAA webinars](#) page for webinar registration!



## EASY SCHOLARSHIPS THAT MAKE APPLYING FOR AID A BREEZE

CHRIS MORRISON, MEDIA ANALYST, SALLIE MAE

Do you remember the last time you got money for doing the absolute minimum? Of course you don't, because that doesn't happen often. But what if I told you that there are thousands of easy scholarships out there that do just that?

When it comes to paying for college, scholarships continue to serve a critical role in offsetting costs for students across the country. According to "How America Pays for College 2019", 65% of students utilized scholarships to help pay for college. With plenty of simple, even easy, scholarship applications readily available to students online, the opportunity to get free money for college has never been better.

So, what's an 'easy' scholarship? What I mean by that are scholarship applications that take very little time to complete and require less work on the part of the applicant to qualify. Scholarships can also be easy simply because they are fun to complete (and yes, those exist!).

How does one find an easy scholarship? Fortunately, easy scholarships are easy to find thanks to many online scholarship resources. With that in mind, here are seven easy scholarship apps that you can utilize to increase your chances of receiving free money for college:

### *No Essay College Scholarship*

No essay? No problem! While many scholarships require students to write an essay in order to qualify, the No Essay College Scholarship awards \$2,000 each month to a random student who either creates a free profile with Niche (a school ranking website with free resources for finding scholarships), or a student who logs into their existing profile during the month. Aside from the No Essay College Scholarship, other non-essay scholarships include the \$1,000 SuperCollege Scholarship, the \$1,000 You Deserve It Scholarship, and the \$1,000 Cappex Easy College Money Scholarship.

### *Left-Handed Scholarships*

Left is always right when it comes to qualifying for scholarships. And yes, it's true – if you are left-handed, you can easily qualify for several scholarships just because you're a lefty. Although each left-handed scholarship has its own individual criteria for applying, a few notable left-handed scholarships include the ESA Foundation Scholarship, the Andrew Macrina Scholarship Fund, and the MRCA Foundation Left-Handed Scholarship.

### *Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship*

Have you ever envisioned how you would survive the zombie apocalypse? If so, the Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship is a "no brainer." To qualify for this scholarship, simply write a 250-word statement outlining how you would survive the zombie apocalypse. Not only could you be selected to receive \$2,000 for college, but you get to let your imagination run wild.

### *10 Things You Love About You Scholarship*

Many scholarships ask applicants to describe the one reason why they should be selected to receive the scholarship. However, since you're amazing, just one reason simply won't do. So, check out the Top Ten List Scholarship! To have the chance to win the \$1,500 Top Ten List Scholarship, write a list of the top ten reasons why you should be selected to receive the scholarship.

### *Tall Clubs International Scholarship*

How's the weather up there? For the vertically fortunate, it's sunny with a chance of scholarships! As the name suggests, the Tall Clubs International scholarship is given to two college-bound students who are exceptionally tall – at least 5'10" for women and 6'2" for men. So, if you qualify simply for being that tall, "heighten" your chances of receiving more financial aid in your first year of college by applying for this one.

### *Don't Text and Drive Scholarship*

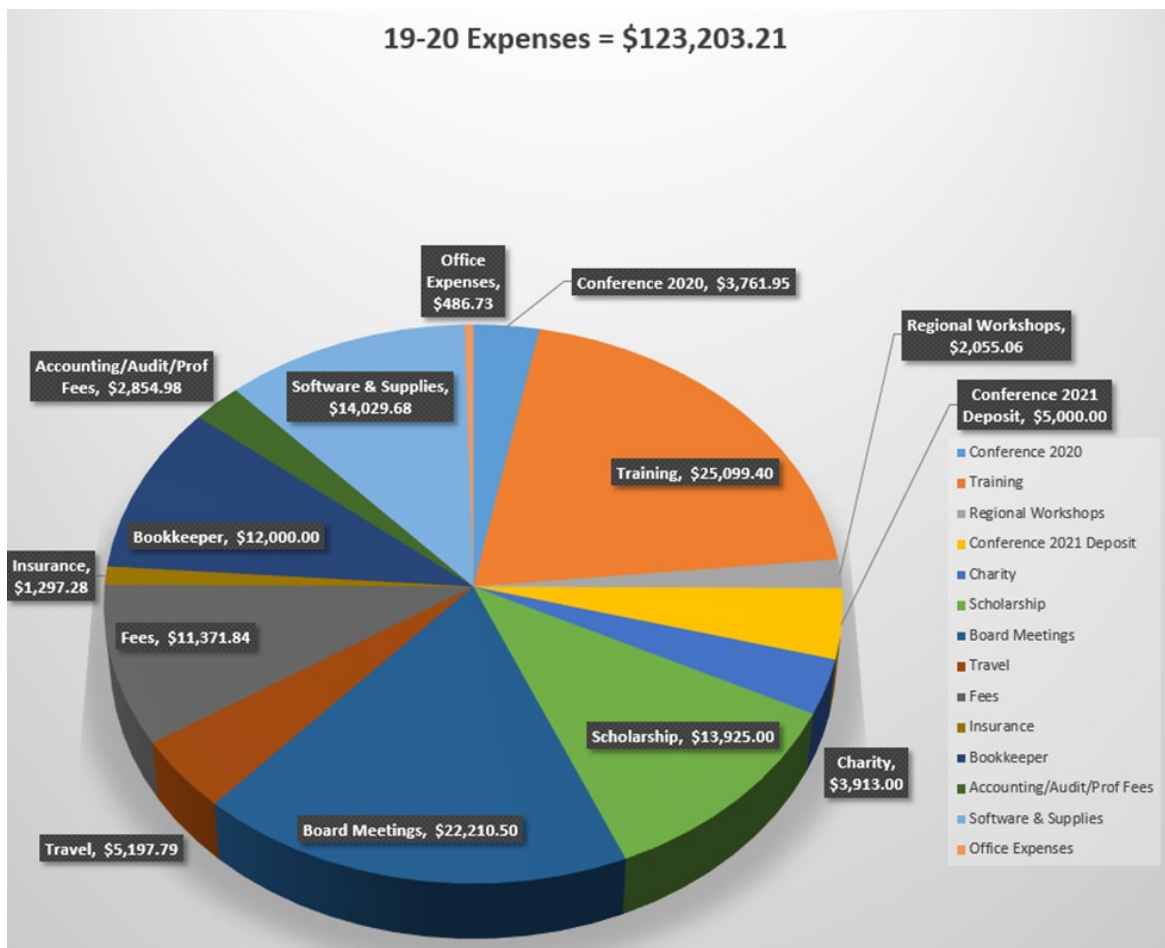
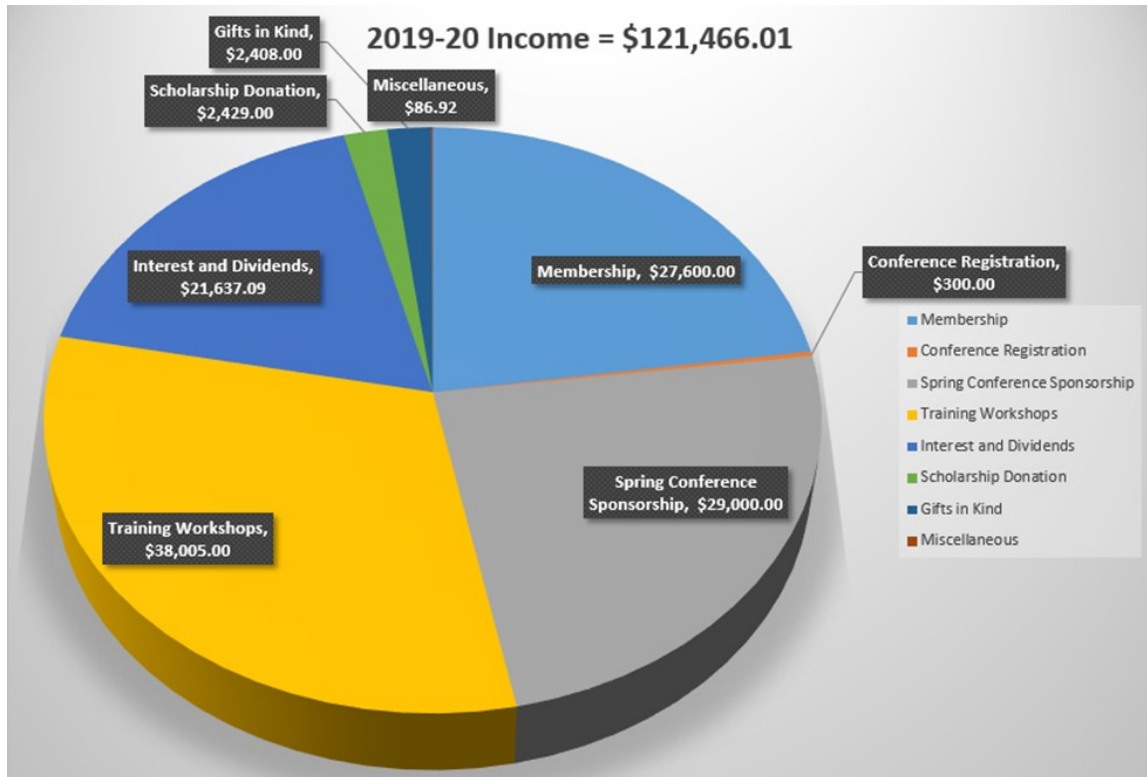
We all know not to text and drive. So, why not get free money for it? To qualify for the \$1,000 Don't Text and Drive Scholarship, simply complete an online application and write a 140-character pledge to not text and drive by the deadline of September 30 (coinciding with No Texting while Driving Day). Finalists will be selected and asked to write an essay on the topic, with the best essay taking home the \$1,000 scholarship!

### *Emoji Scholarship*

We all have our favorite emojis. For the chance to receive the \$1,000 Emoji Scholarship, just explain which emoji best represents your life. And that's it!

**All in all, applying to easy scholarships is a great way to quickly increase one's opportunity for receiving more scholarships to help pay for college. Not only are they easy to qualify for, quick to complete, and occasionally fun to do, but each has the chance of helping you significantly cut down on your annual college costs.**

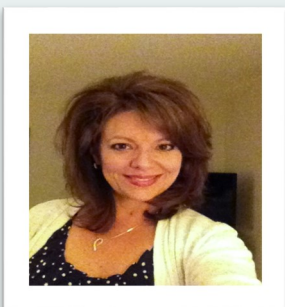
# Year End 1920 FASFAA Budget







## SPONSORSHIP CHAIR



**Laura Dickerson,**  
Sponsorship Chair

Laura Dickerson is this year's Sponsorship Chair for FASFAA. This is Laura's second year serving in this position, which works closely with the executive and conference committee boards to ensure sponsorship goals and membership is maintained to support the organization. Laura has supported FASFAA through membership since 1991 and over the years worked in various capacities to support FASFAA. She and her family live in Tampa FL.



## FASFAA IS DOING IT AGAIN AND WE NEED YOUR HELP

The charity for 2020/2021 is the [Community Foundation of South Lake](#). The mission of the Foundation is "serving our community through the connecting of resources and intentional philanthropic giving."

FASFAA's goal is to raise funds to support the scholarship. College bound recipients are identified through the foundation's DREAM Initiative. DREAM students will have all of the resources, support and services necessary for success; to ensure this happens, the Foundation decided to focus on 20 students living in South Lake County, mainly in the 34711 zip code. This zip code has one of the highest occurrences of single parents living under the poverty line.



The Community Foundation of South Lake is also supporting Mascotte Charter School in Mascotte, FL with procurement of school supplies. The following items are needed and with your donation we can help them check off these supplies.

Lined paper, copy paper, construction paper, spiral notebooks, composition books, index cards

Blue or black pens, #2 pencils, colored pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, pencil cases, colored markers, crayons, highlighters, dry-erase markers.

3-ring 2" binders, pocket folders, report covers

Staplers, staples, rulers, protractors, glue sticks, scissors, tape

Tissues, sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer

**FASFAA's goal this year is \$3,500 and the funds will be split 60/40 (foundation/school). Let's make a difference in the lives of these students. Help us help those in need by making a donation to this charity.**



**Merrian King,**  
Scholarship/Charity Chair

## DONATE HERE:

[https://fasfaa.memberclicks.net/charity\\_donation](https://fasfaa.memberclicks.net/charity_donation)





# Bonnie Pirkle Memorial Scholarship

Created in 1998 to memorialize Bonnie L Pirkle, who gave immensely to the financial aid community during her years of service.

From 1998 to 2016, the FASFAA President has awarded an annual scholarship to a student in their institution.

Funds are collected throughout the FASFAA organization by donations and then added to our endowment account to maintain equity in the program.

In 2017, the FASFAA board agreed to expand the service of this scholarship to further assist students in our state.

The scholarship will be awarded to the respective school associated with the person serving in office. In addition to the President's Award, 7 scholarships will be awarded.

President's Award

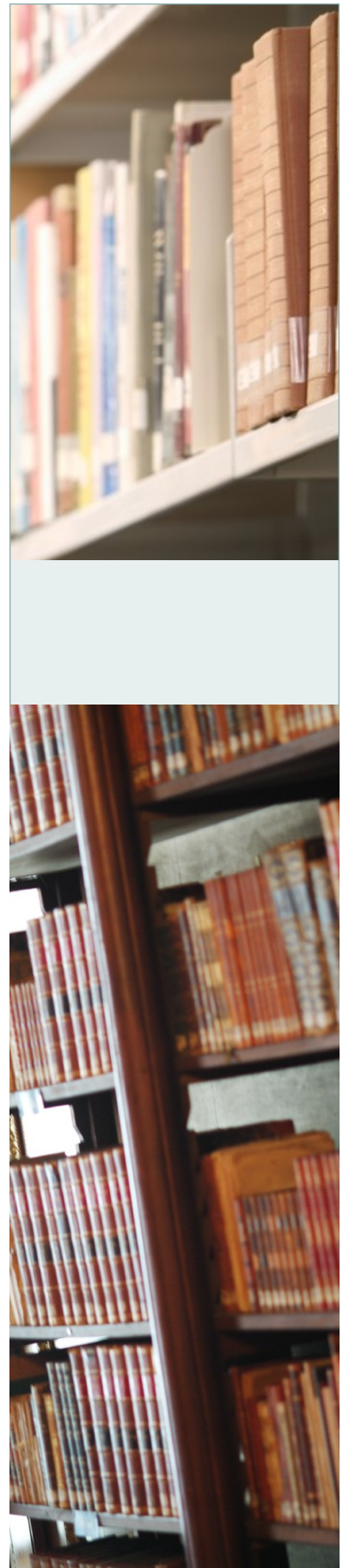
Treasurer's Award

Secretary's Award

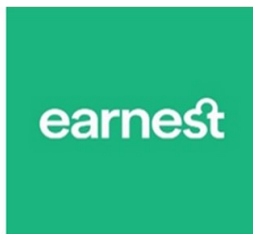
Regional Representatives Award

## DONATE HERE:

[https://fasfaa.memberclicks.net/charity\\_donation](https://fasfaa.memberclicks.net/charity_donation)



Thank you to our Business  
Partners for their continued  
support!



**For more information:**

<https://fasfaa.memberclicks.net/who-are-our-business-partners>

2021 Annual Conference  
June 1-4, 2021  
Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress  
Orlando



**For more information:**

[https://fasfaa.memberclicks.net/2020-annual-conference-annual\\_conference](https://fasfaa.memberclicks.net/2020-annual-conference-annual_conference)