



NASFAA Spotlight

February 2026



About NASFAA



Who We Are

Member institutions serve 9 out of every 10 undergraduates in the US.



29,000+
financial assistance
professionals

at



3,000
colleges, universities,
and career schools

Our Vision

To ensure all qualified students have access to postsecondary education, no matter their socioeconomic background.

Our Mission

NASFAA's mission is to:

- Provide essential professional development, information, and services to financial aid administrators.
- Advocate for public policies that increase student access to and success in postsecondary education; and
- Nurture community and belonging throughout the financial aid profession.

We are committed to diversity throughout all activities.

NASFAA Board & Staff

NASFAA's Board of Directors

"If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader. "

Dolly Parton



Heidi Carl
National Chair
Purdue University



Angela Johnson
National Chair-Elect
Cuyahoga Community College



Kristi Joveli, FAAC®
Past National Chair
Johns Hopkins University



Melanie Storey
President & CEO
NASFAA



Scott Skaro
Treasurer
United Tribes Technical College



Shannon Crossland, FAAC®
Second Year Representative-at-Large
Frank Phillips College



Sarah Everitt, FAAC®
Second Year Representative-at-Large
Gonzaga University



Christal Williams
Second Year Representative-at-Large
Johnson County Community College



Jackie Copeland
First Year Representative-at-Large
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Alex DeLonis, FAAC®
First Year Representative-at-Large
Saint Louis University



Celena Tulloss, FAAC®
First Year Representative-at-Large
Auburn University



Tayler Kreutter, FAAC®
EASFAA Representative
Mount Holyoke College



Betsy Johnson
MASFAA Representative
Bowling Green State University



Justin Chase Brown
RNASFAA Representative
University of Nebraska - Lincoln



Leigh Ann Hussey, FAAC®
SASFAA Representative
University of West Georgia



Elizabeth (Liz) Amador, FAAC®
SWASFAA Representative
University of New Mexico



John Bender
WASFAA Representative
Lewis-Clark State College

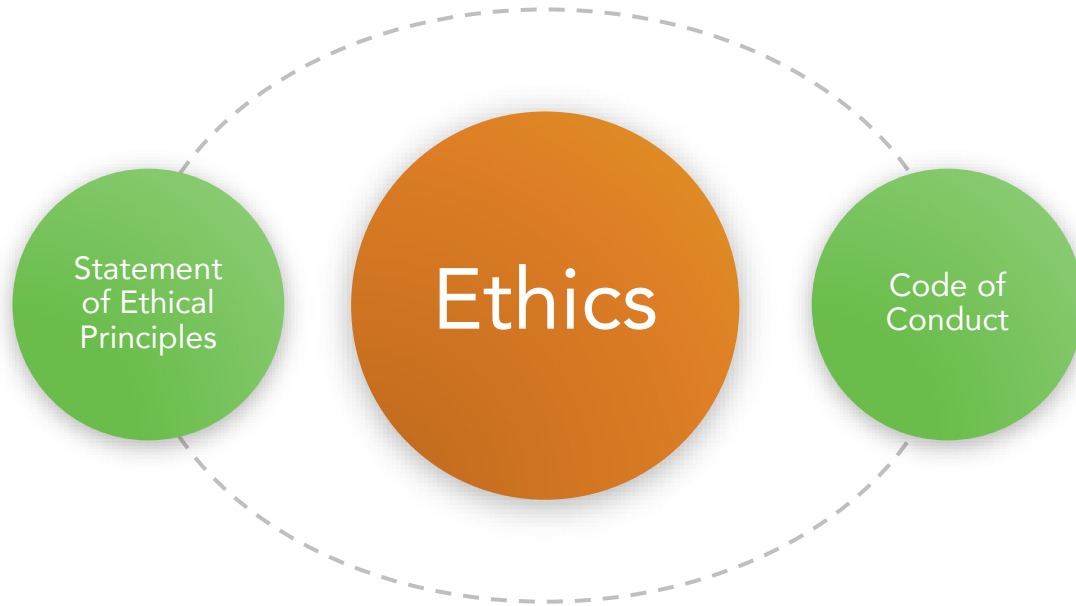


Dr. Sharon Oliver, FAAC®
Diversity Officer
North Carolina Central University



Melet Leafgreen, FAAC®
Secretary
University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center

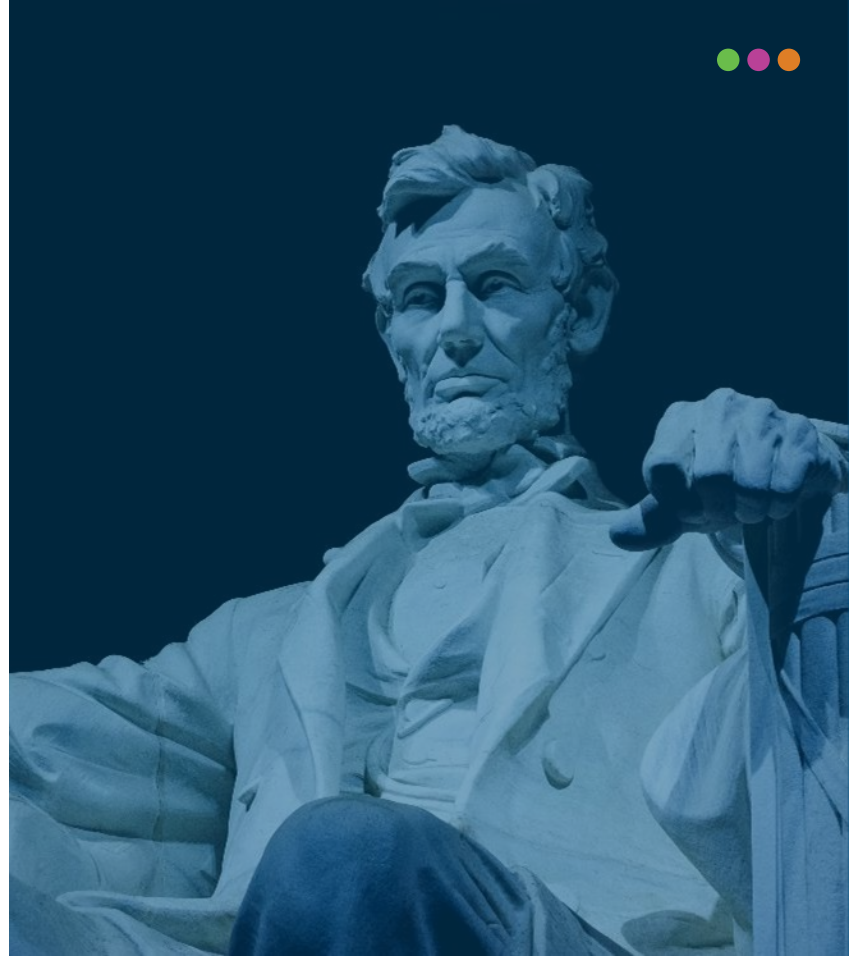
Ethical Oversight - We are committed!



Reputation and Character

“Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.”

Abraham Lincoln



NASFAA's Chief Executive

Following a year-long search, NASFAA welcomed new President and CEO, Melanie Storey, on May 1, 2025.

She most recently served as director of policy implementation and oversight at ED's Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA), where she led crossfunctional teams in translating federal policy into practice.



She has also held positions at:

- College Board
- American Council on Education (ACE), and
- National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU).

https://www.nasfaa.org/presidential_search

NASFAA Executive Team



Beth Maglione
Executive Vice
President



Mindy Eline
Blue Icon
Executive
Director,
NASFAA Vice
President



Sydney Evans
Chief of Staff



Karen McCarthy
Vice President of
Public Policy and
Federal Relations



Dana Kelly
Vice President
of Professional
Development &
Institutional
Compliance



Carrie Conrad
Vice President of
Technology &
Member
Experience

NASFAA is in good hands with a tenured leadership team!

NASFAA

Resources: Reliable
Information &
Training

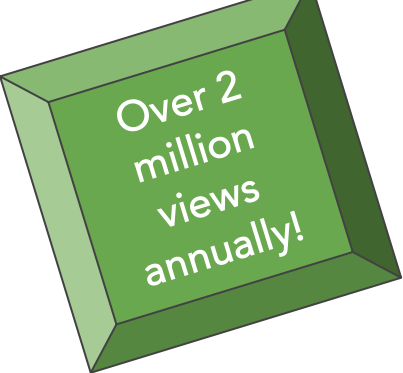


The Ref Desk

A comprehensive index developed by NASFAA and other education partners that has open access for aid professionals. Find it fast!

studentaidrefdesk.org





AskRegs

Search the database of “real world” questions and answers

Or

Ask the NASFAA Training & Regulatory Assistance Team a question

The screenshot shows the NASFAA AskRegs Knowledgebase login interface. At the top, there are logos for NASFAA (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators) and AskRegs. A search bar and a 'Login' link are in the top right. The main content area has a blue background with a grid pattern. It features a 'Welcome to NASFAA's AskRegs Knowledgebase!' heading, followed by a paragraph explaining that the service is for members with limited public access. Below this, it states that full access requires an active member login. A 'password reset option' is mentioned for those without a myNASFAA account. A 'Contact NASFAA Membership Services via email' link is provided for assistance. On the right side, there is a white login form titled 'Login with your NASFAA credentials'. It asks for a username (email address) and password, with a note that passwords are case-sensitive. The form includes input fields for 'Enter Username' and 'Enter Password', a 'Login' button, and a 'Forgot Password?' link. Below the form, there is a 'Not a Member?' section with a note about limited content availability and two buttons: 'Explore Free Content' and 'Membership Info'.

AskRegs Alerts **Welcome to NASFAA's AskRegs Knowledgebase!**

NASFAA's AskRegs provides a searchable Knowledgebase of answers to financial aid administrators' questions. Get started by browsing or searching the large library of questions and responses for an immediate answer.

If you can't find an answer, ask a question. Our experts will thoroughly research your question and provide you a comprehensive answer, including any applicable regulatory citations. That question and answer may then be added (without identifying information) as appropriate to further expand the Knowledgebase Q&A library.

**Timely**

What Happens To Federal Student Aid If There Is a Government Shutdown In 2023?

What FAFSA Simplification Provisions Are Effective For the 2023-24 Award Year?

When Will the 2024-25 FAFSA Go Live?

Where Can I Find a List of Terms and Definitions Related To FAFSA Simplification?

Most Recent

Can a Federal Pell Grant Exceed the Cost of Attendance Starting In 2024-25?

Must Aid Be Adjusted If a Federal Pell Grant Plus Non-Title IV Aid Exceed the Cost Of Attendance?

What Happens To Federal Student Aid If There Is a Government Shutdown In 2023?

Can a Dependent Student Be Included In a Parent's and an Independent Sibling's

Explore Categories

Administrative Capability

Agreements Between Schools

Application Processing

Cash Management

Consumer Information

Cost of Attendance

COVID-19

Direct Loan/FFEL

FAFSA Simplification

Fresh Start

PSEOG

FWS

Institutional Eligibility

Need Analysis

Non-Title IV Aid

Overawards/Overpayments

Packaging

Pell & IASG

Perkins

Prison Education Programs

See what's trending or search by keyword.



Resources on The One Big Beautiful Bill

nasfaa.org/reconciliation



NASFAA 2026 - We Hope To See You There!



June 29 - July 2, 2026
National Harbor, MD

<https://www.nasfaa.org/conference>



July 13 - July 17, 2026
<https://www.nasfaa.org/virtual>



NASFAA Training Opportunities for 2025-26



2026 Spring Webinar Topics



(Through June 2026)
Live and On-Demand



- Professional Development Panel: Career Pathing in Financial Aid
- Strengthening Student Support: Connecting Financial Aid, Student Affairs, and Mental Health for Holistic Success
- Return to Title IV: New Regulations Effective July 1, 2026
- What's New in Consumer Information
- Annual Business Meeting and Policy Update
- TRA Hot Topic
- NASFAA Quiz Show: Test Your Financial Aid Knowledge

NASFAA U Online Courses



- In Depth Instruction
- Practicing Adjuncts
- Video Tutorials
- Live and On demand classes
- Downloadable Resources
- Active Assessment
- Complimentary Professional Credential Testing Access

nasfaa.org/Online_Courses

Courses for Spring 2026

- Fundamental of Financial Aid
- Return of Title IV Funds
- Verification 26-27
- Satisfactory Academic Progress
- Academic Calendars
- Administrative Capability



NASFAA Certified Financial Aid Administrator[®] (CFAA) Program

“The FAAC[®] designation is the gold standard of professional achievement in financial aid—demonstrating not only deep regulatory knowledge but also a commitment to ethical practice and student success.”

-Dana Kelly, NASFAA



Advances and elevates the profession

Inspires quality job performance

Creates a competitive edge



NASFAA Certified Financial Aid Administrator® Program



Certified Financial Aid Administrator® Program

It's more than just an exam...

Make it part of your professional development ecosystem!



Credential Quality Standards achieved!

- Rigorous assessment against industry standards
- Affirms quality and defensibility of the certification program
- April 2021



NASFAA's New Competency Model

Designed to Reflect Today's Landscape

- Aligns with evolving federal regulations and institutional practices
- Incorporates skills in leadership, technology, equity, and student-centered service
- Provides a structured framework for professional growth at every career stage

<https://www.nasfaa.org/competencies>



Why It Matters

- Ensures training and credentialing stay relevant to current challenges
- Helps institutions benchmark staff development and performance
- Strengthens the profession's role in supporting student access and success

Career Awareness Toolkit

This toolkit provides practical strategies, ready-to-use resources, and actionable messaging to help financial aid professionals raise awareness about the importance of financial aid administration.

- **Increase Visibility:** Tools to raise awareness of financial aid as a career path.
- **Practical Resources:** Templates, sample campaigns, and talking points for outreach.
- **Audience-Focused:** Materials designed for HR staff, career services, institutional leaders, and prospective professionals.
- **Customizable:** Adaptable resources for your campus or organization.

nasfaa.org/career_awareness_toolkit

Advancing the Profession Toolkit

Strengthening the Role of Financial Aid in Campus Leadership



Transparency on what
financial aid staff does



Justification for
professional development
and training



Staffing and succession
planning resources



Advice on cultivating a
healthy office culture



Relationship and coalition
building

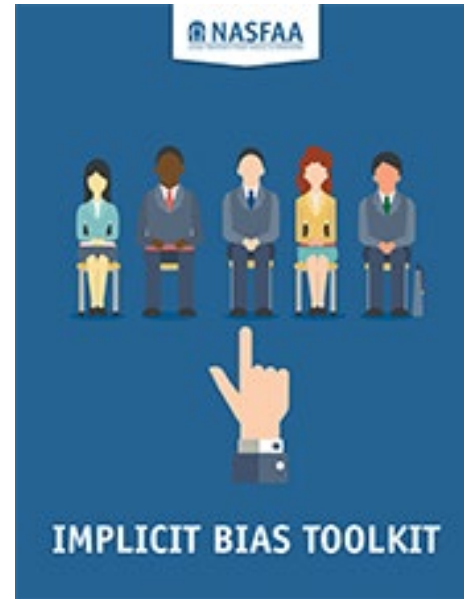


Media training

Implicit Bias Toolkit

- NASFAA invites you to **reflect** and **consider** that as financial aid administrators, we directly **influence** the trajectory of our students' lives through our work.
- NASFAA, in conjunction with our member task force, created this toolkit to assist aid offices with awareness and suggestions to assist in eliminating bias from institutional policies and procedures.

nasfaa.org/implicit_bias_toolkit



College Cost Transparency Initiative - 1 Year In

NASFAA — along with 10 higher education associations representing college presidents, financial aid offices, enrollment managers, and admissions counselors — launched a task force with the goal of creating a set of principles and standards about what information should be included in institutional aid offers so the resulting documents are clear, meet high standards of transparency, and contain consumer friendly information, while still allowing for institutional customization.



6,974,664

STUDENTS
SERVED

732

PARTNER
INSTITUTIONS

50

STATES
REPRESENTED
plus PUERTO RICO & GUAM

as of January 2026
collegeprice.org

Prison Education Program Web Center

- Created to keep both financial aid community and prison education program administrators updated on tools, training, and news related to the implementation of financial aid in carceral settings



- The webcenter features the following resources:
 - PEP Reference Sheets: COA; SAP; Verification; and Pell LEU
 - PEP Slack Community
 - PEP AskRegs Related Questions
 - PEP Webinar Information

nasfaa.org/pep

Policy Grant-funded Work

In 2025, NASFAA hit over \$7.2 million dollar mark in grant-funded projects

Recent grant work:

Funding for NASFAA's College Cost Transparency Initiative for the current fiscal year

Continuing to providing technical assistance and community building for Prison Education Programs

Completing smaller projects that will take place through December 2025:

- Exploring SAP Requirements and Student Outcomes



Our Mission: To serve as a trusted advisor to the financial aid community by supporting and improving financial aid compliance, operations, and student service.

- Consulting
 - Standards of Excellence Reviews
 - Compliance Reviews
 - Operational Reviews
 - Single-Topic Assessments
 - System Optimizations
 - Program Review Assistance
- Executive & Group Coaching
- Policies & Procedures
- Interim Staffing & Leadership
- Training
- Let's Talk!

blueiconadvisors.com



The Department of Education

Faces of the Department of Education



Secretary of Education
Linda McMahon



Under Secretary of Education
Nicholas Kent



FSA Acting Chief Operating
Officer
Richard Lucas

Photos Source: The U.S. Department of Education

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act



- Eliminates the Grad PLUS Program
- Establishes new loan limits for the Parent PLUS Program
- Students who receive grants or scholarships that cover their entire cost of attendance (COA) will be ineligible to receive a Pell Grant
- Establishes a Work-Force Pell Grant program
- \$10 billion in mandatory funding for the Pell Grant program for FY 2026
- Creates an accountability measure for institutions
- Reinstates the exemption of family farm and small business assets from the SAI calculation and expands the asset exemption to family-owned commercial fisheries

Federal Student Aid Changes from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act

*Items in *italics* indicate proposed changes in earlier versions of the bill that were ultimately not included in the final version that was signed into law.



Pell Grant Program			
Topic	Change	Notes	Effective Dates
Pell Shortfall	Provides approximately \$10 billion in mandatory funding to address the impending Pell Grant shortfall.	In Spring 2023, the Congressional Budget Office released projections for the Pell Grant program, indicating a possible funding shortfall in FY23 of about \$2.7 billion that would apply to the 2023-24 school year. By the end of FY25, the budget shortfall would be nearly \$10 billion.	Part of Fiscal Year 2026 Budget
Workforce Pell	Creates a Workforce Pell Grant program. Eligible programs must be 150-600 clock hours and/or at least 8 weeks but fewer than 15 weeks. Programs must lead to a "certifiable, creditable," credential across more than one employer or prepare students for entry-level employment for which there is only one recognized postsecondary credential. The program must be approved by the state governor or official with equivalent authority and meeting employment needs, or the director has determined the institution for at least one year, and meet performance benchmarks, including having a 30% completion rate, 370% job placement rate within 180 days, and the program can cannot exceed the value added savings of students who completed the program 3 years prior. The credits must also be allowed to transfer into future degree programs.	Remedial, non-credit, correspondence, English language learning, and study abroad coursework are not eligible. Also exclude unaccredited institutions from participating. Students cannot receive both regular Pell and Workforce Pell simultaneously, and may opt upon a Workforce Pell Grant awards toward the students' overall Pell eligibility limit.	July 1, 2026
Pell Grant Endowment	No change.	Earlier versions of the bill proposed changing the definition of full-time enrollment for Pell eligibility, as well as expanding Pell eligibility for students with half-time enrollment. These provisions were not included in the final legislation.	N/A

Federal Direct Loan Program			
Topic	Change	Notes	Effective Dates
Graduate PLUS Loan Program	Eliminates the Graduate PLUS loan program.	Legacy Provisions: If a borrower has a Graduate PLUS loan made before July 1, 2026, while enrolled in a credit-based program, the borrower can continue to borrow from that program for 3 academic years or the remainder of their expected time to credential, whichever is less.	July 1, 2026
Parent PLUS Annual & Aggregate Loan Limits	All parents (combined) may borrow \$80,000 per year per dependent student and a \$60,000 aggregate limit per dependent student (with regard to amounts forgiven, repaid, awarded, or discharged).	Legacy Provisions: If a borrower has a Parent PLUS loan made before July 1, 2026, while the dependent student is enrolled in a credit-based program, the parent can continue to borrow under current loan limits for 3 academic years or the remainder of their dependent student's expected time to credential, whichever is less.	July 1, 2026
Graduate/Professional Annual & Aggregate Loan Limits	Caps the annual loan limits at \$20,000 for graduate students and \$50,000 for professional students. The aggregate limit is capped at \$100,000 for graduate students and \$500,000 for professional students, and does not include amounts borrowed as an independent borrower. Borrowers who are both graduate and professional students at some point in their educational careers may only borrow up to \$200,000 in total for graduate and professional student aid.	Legacy Provisions: If a borrower has a Direct Unsubsidized Loan made before July 1, 2026, while enrolled in a credit-based program, the borrower can continue to borrow under current loan limits for 3 academic years or the remainder of their expected time to credential, whichever is less. A professional student is a student enrolled in a program of study that awards a professional degree, as defined under section 34 CFR 668.2. Examples of a professional degree include but are not limited to Pharmacy (Pharm.D.), Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.), Veterinary Medicine (DVM), Chiropractic (D.C. or D.C.A.), Law (J.D. or J.S.), Medicine (M.D.), Osteopathy (D.O.), Osteopathy in Medicine (D.O.), Podiatry (D.P.M., D.P., or D.P.O.), and Health Services (M.S., M.P.H., or Ph.D.).	July 1, 2026
Federal Loan Program Lifetime Loan Limits	\$27,500 lifetime borrowing limit on all federal student loans, including borrowed Parent PLUS loan amounts in the case of a dependent student who had ParentPLUS borrowed on their behalf for education expenses.	Legacy Provisions: If a borrower has a Federal Direct Loan made before July 1, 2026, while enrolled in a credit-based program, the borrower can continue to borrow under current loan limits for 3 academic years or the remainder of their expected time to credential, whichever is less.	July 1, 2026
Institutionally Determined Limits	Allows institutions to impose their own lower program-level loan limits.	Lower loan limits must be applied to the entire program and not on a student-by-student basis.	July 1, 2026
Loan Proportion	Requires institutions to prorate annual loan amounts in direct proportion to the percent of full-time status the student is enrolled.		No date mentioned in final bill
Subsidized Loan Program	No change.	An earlier version of the bill proposed eliminating the subsidized loan program. This provision was not included in the final legislation.	N/A

8/2025 NASFAA

July 2025

Quick Summary of Neg Reg Results

RISE Committee

- Separated annual/aggregate loan limits for graduate & professional students
- Eliminated GradPLUS
- Added annual loan amount adjustments based on enrollment
- Created two new Repayment Plans

AHEAD Committee

- Created framework for Workforce Pell Program
- Provision for how students with COAs met by grant aid now interact with Pell eligibility
- Eliminated of Debt-to-Earnings Metric
- Replaced GE/FVT with new accountability framework: STATS
- Created orderly close-out option for programs that fail new earnings premium test after one year
- Added requirements for warnings to students in failing programs

FAFSA Low Earnings Indicator

- Incorporated into the 2026-27 FAFSA
- On the FAFSA Submission Summary
- Will appear for institutions applicants have listed to receive their FAFSA data whose graduates' typical earnings fall below a set threshold





Some of Your Selected Schools Show Lower Earnings

Students graduating from some of the schools you selected don't always earn more money than people with only a high school diploma. Review your schools to see earnings information.

[See These Schools](#)

Data Sharing

FTI guidance issued
September 30

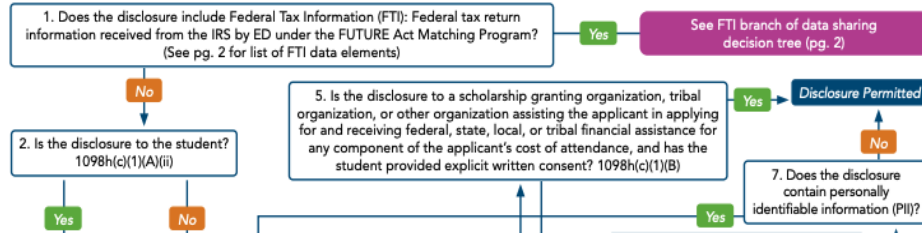
NASFAA updated
resources:

- Data sharing white paper
- Overview of laws
- Comparison of prior guidance vs new scenarios
- Data sharing decision tree

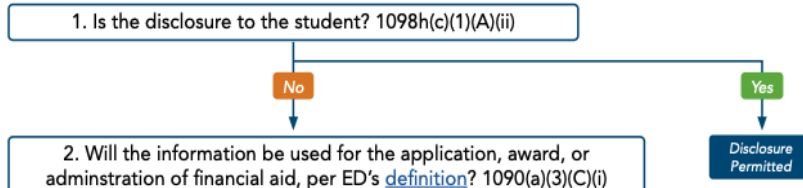


tree

NASFAA Data Sharing Decision Tree for Postsecondary Institutions



Data Sharing Decision Tree Federal Tax Information (FTI) Branch



Get Involved with
NASFAA!

NASFAA Communities

Benefits of Joining a NASFAA Community, powered by Slack:

- Quick and easy access to your aid colleagues
- Professional and personal development
- Network building
- Real-time conversations with financial aid professionals across the country



Volunteering with NASFAA

VOLUNTEER

- Enhance professional development
- Grow leadership potential
- Expand perspective and skills
- Bolster resume and credentials
- Widen professional network

Visit
nasfaa.org/Get_Involved
for volunteer opportunities.

We welcome new volunteers!

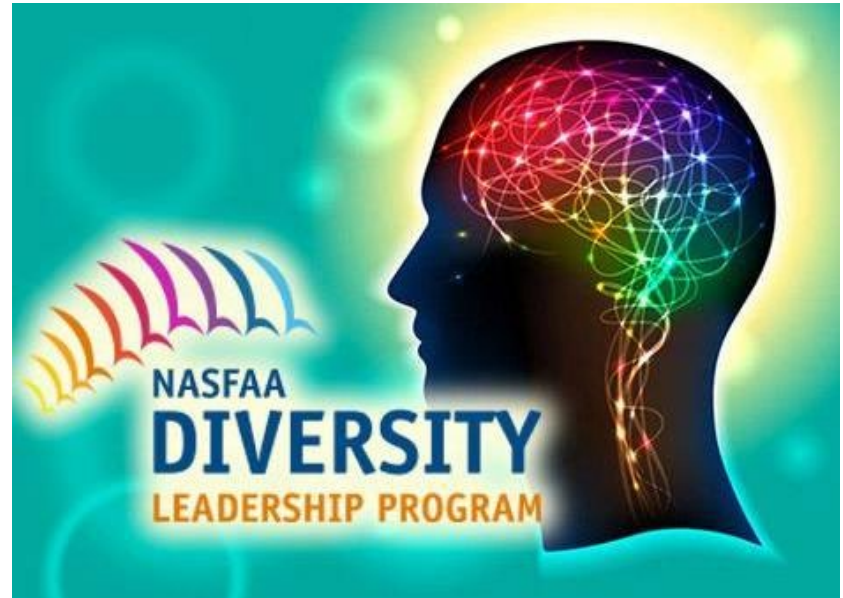
CURRENT TASK FORCES

- Associate Member Advisory Board
- Executive Leadership Collective Task Force
- Rapid Response Network
- State Advocacy Network
- Under-Resourced School Scholarship Selection Task Force
- DLP Selection Task Force
- 2025 Leadership & Legislative Conference & Expo Pathway Task Forces
- 2025 National Conference Program Task Force
- *Coming Soon: AI Task Force*
- *Coming Soon: Succession Planning TF*

The Diversity Leadership Program (DLP)

- Open to all members, 2025-26 is program Year 8
- Application typically opens in September
- Creates a pipeline for support and access to mentors.
- Under-represented groups within the aid community gain access to leadership opportunities.
- Provides participants with important professional development.

nasfaa.org/DLP



2025-26 Diversity Leadership Program Class



Brandi Blanton
Director of Financial Aid
Shreiber School of
Veterinary Medicine of
Rowan University
EASFAA



Mershawn Gayden
Assistant Director,
Financial Aid - Ross
School of Business
University of Michigan
MASFAA



Vanessa Rodriguez,
FAAC®
Financial Aid Advisor
Garden City
Community College
RMASFAA



Jonathan Ibarra,
FAAC®
Senior Associate
Director of
Processing
Appalachian
State University
SASFAA



Whitnie Smith, FAAC®
Student Financial
Services Strategist
Abilene Christian
University
SWASFAA



Victoria Mavricakis
Financial Aid
Counselor
University of Oregon
WASFAA

Stay Informed

TODAY'S NEWS



NASFAA COMMUNITIES



OFF THE CUFF



NASFAA Individual Awards

- Award Nomination Process opened fall 2025; **nominations due Feb. 2026**
- Awards announced at the National Conference each summer
- **Individual Awards** - Awards to individuals are given in several categories, and nominations are accepted for the following:
 - Allan W. Purdy Distinguished Service Award
 - Lifetime Achievement Award
 - Honorary Membership Award
 - Meritorious Achievement Award
 - Robert P. Huff Golden Quill Award

www.nasfaa.org/award_nominations



Thank You!