



MAFAA Matters

A Newsletter for the Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators

January 2019

Contributors this issue:

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- Jill Anderson and Susan Brady
- Bridget Johnson
- Pam Engebretson
- Sara Edwards
- Deb Gossman
- Diane Borchardt
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President's Message

Anne Dahlen, 2018-19 MAFAA President

We had a wonderful holiday season at our house and I hope yours was just as joyous and bustling. Here's to a Happy 2019! Last August our house became very lonely with the departure of my sons, Paul and Luke, as they left for college. Paul is a senior at Gustavus Adolphus and Luke is in his first year at Augustana University. After 21 years of having kids in the house, the emptiness of not having them around was a significant change for Dave and me. The boys were home for winter break and their presence was my favorite present this year! It was a most wonderful gift, and I hope you had similar blessings!

My term as MAFAA president is roughly half over and we continue to grow as an association. On December 10, the MAFAA legislative task force hosted a webinar in conjunction with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education. This webinar outlined priorities for the upcoming session and updates on the election. There are more legislative webinars to come and I hope you are able to take advantage of them.

Part of MAFAA's mission is to provide training. Our professional development committee is working hard to provide training opportunities that will assist us in a better understanding of the financial aid process, programs and regulations. Please visit our website for the latest training dates at <https://mafaa.org/events>. I know there is something there for everyone.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming MAFAA spring conference. The conference will be held at Madden's Resort on May 8 – 10, 2019. I hope that we will have some nice weather. Our goal this year is to have both a NASFAA representative and our Department of Education trainer. This will provide MAFAA with the bigger picture of what is happening in Washington and the detailed regulations we need to complete our daily work.

MAFAA consists of many wonderful members, all of whom have made the webinars, training sessions and conference possible. Thank you MAFAA members.

Wishing you the very best in 2019!

What is Minnesota Goes to College?

By Jill Anderson and Susan Brady, MAFAA Outreach Committee Co-chairs

Minnesota Goes to College is our state's effort to provide every graduating high school senior with the preparation, opportunity, and support needed to apply and enroll in college. Starting in October, participating schools, college access programs, postsecondary institutions and community organizations plan and host the following types of events for students and families:



College Knowledge Month Events: During October, high schools host college exploration activities and dedicate time and space for seniors to complete college applications. Many Minnesota postsecondary institutions waive application fees during this time to remove a barrier for some students who might not otherwise submit an application.

FAFSA Completion Events: From October through May, these events help students and families with the next step in the process: completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). FAFSA completion events are hosted by high schools, postsecondary institutions and community organizations.

Minnesota Goes to College events focus on first-generation, low-income students, and students of color, but we support all Minnesota students and their families in completing these important steps to receive postsecondary education and training. All Minnesota Goes to College events are free.

Who supports this initiative?

College application and FAFSA completion events have been in Minnesota since 2011 and 2003, respectively. Both efforts started as offshoots of national campaigns to increase college access for underrepresented students. Since 2014, all fifty states organize and support college application and FAFSA completion efforts, supported by The American Council on Education (ACE) and The National College Access Network (NCAN).

Minnesota Goes to College is sponsored by a Steering Committee of K12, higher education, nonprofit partners and professional organizations, including:

Achieve Minneapolis
 Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)
 Buffalo High School
 Gustavus Adolphus College
 Minneapolis Public Schools
 Minnesota Association for College Admission Counseling (MACAC)
 Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators (MAFAA)
 Minnesota Association of Counselors of Color (MnACC)

Minnesota Department of Education
 Minnesota Office of Higher Education
 Minnesota Private College Council
 Minnesota State
 Minnesota State University, Mankato
 Saint Paul Public Schools
 Sibley East High School
 STRIVE Program
 University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

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Minnesota Goes to College, *continued*

How can I participate in Minnesota Goes to College?

Depending on your role or expertise, you can participate in the following ways:

1. Host a Minnesota Goes to College event at your site!

All schools, college access programs, postsecondary institutions and community organizations which serve Minnesota students are invited and encouraged to host events centered around college exploration and application completion (including the FAFSA). Benefits include:

- More of your students will submit college applications and the FAFSA.
- Planning resources, promotional materials, and technical support will be provided to assist with your event(s).
- Assistance with volunteer recruitment for your event(s), if requested.
- A community of support from committed educational professionals across the state.

[Visit the Site Coordinator Page of our website for more information and to register to host a College Knowledge Month or FAFSA event](https://bit.ly/mngoestocollege_hostevent) bit.ly/mngoestocollege_hostevent

2. Volunteer at a Minnesota Goes to College event!

Volunteers from colleges and the community are a critical ingredient to the success of these events. Volunteers can lend their individual expertise and are needed in a variety of ways, depending on the needs of the high school or event. Benefits include:

- An opportunity to establish and/or strengthen relationships with local high schools.
- A chance to provide one-on-one assistance to students and/or families with college applications or the FAFSA.
- An opportunity to share your college journey or professional expertise through conversation or large group presentation.

[Visit the Volunteer Page of our website for more information and to register to participate as an event volunteer.](https://bit.ly/mngoestocollege_volunteer) bit.ly/mngoestocollege_volunteer

3. Engage students in Minnesota Goes to College!

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook and participate in the #whyapply and/or #whychose campaigns. @mngoestocollege

Where can I access more information?

[Visit the Minnesota Goes to College website.](https://bit.ly/mngoestocollege) bit.ly/mngoestocollege

2018 Federal Student Aid Conference— A Minnesota Recap

A nice Minnesota (or is that Minnesota-nice) contingent attended the annual Federal Student Aid (FSA) conference held November 27-30, 2018 in Atlanta, GA. Though this is not a complete list of all the MAFAA members who attended, a few known to attend were Monica Ehalt, Brittany Tweed, Mike Uran, Bridget Johnson, Gayle Yamry, Lois Larson, Brad Riebel, Scott Roelke, Larry Bloom, Deb Pusari, Susan Brady, Chad Nosbusch, Becky Christy, Alyssa Gillette, and Kris Parker. There are others for sure who took in many of the vast array of sessions offered by the Department of Education. Next year's FSA conference will be held Dec. 3 – Dec. 6, 2019 at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center in Reno, NV. Information on the 2019 conference along with registration and housing is scheduled to be available *mid-summer* 2019.

Here's a personal recap of FSA 2018 by Bridget Johnson, Anoka Ramsey Community College:

My cab driver informed me on the way from the Atlanta airport that the weather was unseasonably cold, lucky us! All of that really didn't matter though once I was back in the land of sweet tea, fried green tomatoes and pimento cheese! That was an indulgence right away on Monday night so the conference was already going well.

Opening session, as usual, was a cattle call of people flowing in to hear the opening remarks and I can tell you the biggest news of the conference was easy to miss! With gasps and applause from the crowd the department announced that we can accept signed tax returns and a signed statement confirming non filing. Now if you wanted to hear the news one more time, they always talked about it but never repeated what they originally said. So for those of us who hadn't taken their first sip of coffee it was more like what just happened! More guidance to come but I can tell you that more than a few administrators sent e-mails back home and mistakenly started accepted paper returns. LOL! The overall feel was that the community is finally feeling heard after NASFAA, the Hill and other agencies have pushed for a review of verification processes which was a nice win!

This was my first FSA conference! So while it was overwhelming, it also had a lot of good information straight from the horse's mouth. While my main take-aways mostly revolved around NextGen FAFSA and FSA, there were a lot of fantastic sessions that dug deeper into issues such as citizenship, preparations for changes on tax forms and discussions involving administration of the children of fallen heroes scholarship (Pell increase).

Of course, it's also nice to have a little fun when you are there. I hear that Brad Riebel and Mike Uran took a little visit to the College Football Hall of Fame and I went to Martin Luther King's birth home as well as the Atlanta Botanical Garden which had a light display that did not disappoint! More importantly, I caught one last meal downtown before heading to the airport. That meal was, of course, fried green tomatoes.



At FSA: Chad Nosbusch, Susan Brady, Deb Pusari, and Becky Christy



'Minnesota Twins'
Kris Parker and Susan Brady



Monica Ehalt and Bridget Johnson

Professional Development Committee Offers Training for all MAFAA Members

By Pam Engebretson, Professional Development Committee Chair

The MAFAA Professional Development Committee has been tasked with creating new training for our MAFAA members. With that in mind, your committee has worked in earnest to create innovative, fresh and relevant training. Your committee members are:

Bao Yang-Moua (Saint Paul College)	Tyler Heu (Minnesota State University, Mankato)
Bryan Schmitz (Rasmussen College)	Michelle Curtis (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities)
Monica Ehalt (Anoka Ramsey Community College)	Susan Ant (Normandale Community College)
Anita Ostercamp (Bethel University)	Alex Hintz (North Central University)
Taleya Hamilton (Wallin Education Partner)	Pam Engebretson (Century College)
Kimberly Kolar (Century College)	Gayle Yamry (Metropolitan State University)
Patty Hemann (Riverland Community College)	Scott Roelke (Dakota County Technical College/ Inver Hills Community College)

Mark your calendars to attend the upcoming training events:

Financial Aid 101: Learning the FUNdamentals of Financial Aid is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13th from 9:00 – 3:00 at Anoka Ramsey Community College

Financial aid 101 will be geared toward financial aid staff with two or fewer years of experience. This training will be retooled to present information without quite as much depth as previous training. Feedback from previous attendees is that it was information overload; too much info for one day.

MAFAA University: It's not your old 201 is scheduled for mid-March (either the 19th or 21st) from 9:00 – 4:00 at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities on the Minneapolis campus.

MAFAA University will offer diversity training in the morning and NASFAA credential training in the afternoon.

FUNDamentals for Other Professionals is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3 with the time to be determined but the location is confirmed at Dakota County Technical College.

We look forward to sharing the excitement of financial aid with professionals across the state who want to learn more but don't work with financial aid responsibilities day in and day out.

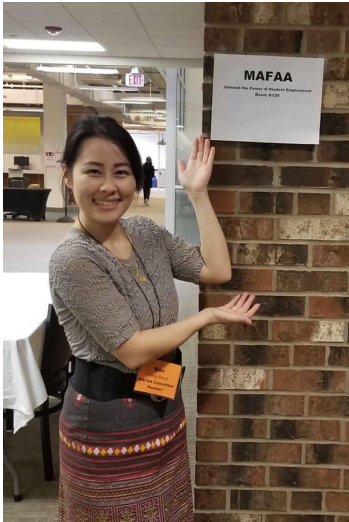
Lastly, we intend to offer **NASFAA credential training** again as a MAFAA pre-conference event on Wednesday, May 8th at Madden's Inn by Brainerd.

Two Training Events Have Already Been Held

The **Hot Topics: Immigration and Taxes** training event was well attended in October with 60 participants learning more about the immigration processes, VISA statuses, how the federal government manages immigration with our expert, Marissa Hill-Dongre. The Department of Ed did a brief presentation on the Homeland Security's SAVE process for secondary confirmation of citizenship. Meghan Flores from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education shared information on the Minnesota Dream Act program. MAFAA members heard from Debbie Yerys, a tax expert and IRS enrolled agent, to learn more about the new tax laws and tax returns, filing statuses and other pertinent issues related to our role as "the IRS." The presenters were so amazing that we hardly touched their presentations because of all the audience participation and questions. We hope to bring some of the presenters to our MAFAA conference in May. The committee also wants to thank Emily Dowdle, Lori Lemm and Larry Bloom for their participation in our round table conversation on taxes, verification and financial aid processing.

Unleash the Power of Student Employment was held on December 5th with 30 attendees. The presentation was revamped to present fresh new ideas to our members. Century College staff of Kim Kolar and Jackie Reichter presented on creating a successful supervisor training program at your school, Val Knopp from St Cloud State University shared how to build partnerships across your campus to strengthen relationships with your human resources, career services and payroll departments. The session on basic employment laws and regulations was cancelled due to presenter issues and we hope to offer this session at our conference. There was a lively round table discussion on a wide range of student employment topics. We want to thank our panel experts Bao Yang-Moua (St. Paul College), Eric Langness (Rasmussen College), Kim Kolar and Val Knopp for their participation in this session. Liz Whitcomb (Minnesota State University, Mankato) helped members understand the role of Graduate Assistants (GA) at colleges and how GAs are paid.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming training sessions!



Scenes from Professional Development Training— Student Employment and Hot Topics



MAFAA 2018-19 Calendar of Events

2019

Jan 7	MAFAA Legislative Taskforce Webinar	Skype
Feb 13	FinAid 101 FUNdamentals	Anoka Ramsey Comm College
Feb 15	Executive Council meeting	Rasmussen College, Eagan
March 11	MAFAA Legislative Taskforce Webinar	Skype
March TBD	MAFAA University: It's Not Your Old 201	University of MN-Twin Cities
Mar 15	Executive Council meeting	Rasmussen College, Eagan
Apr 3	FUNdamentals for Other Professionals	Dakota County Tech
Apr 8	MAFAA Legislative Taskforce Webinar	Skype
May 8-10	Spring Conference	Madden's Resort, Brainerd MN

Beyond the Booth

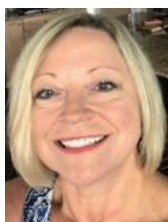
Compiled by Jacquelynn Mol Sletten, Associate Member Sector Representative



My name is **Sara Edwards** and I am your Relationship Manager for Citizens Bank. I was born and raised in St Joseph, MO. The home of the Pony Express! I grew up in a pretty big family with five children, which was fantastic. My husband Jim and I have two grown children, Nicole and Jimmy. And two years ago Jimmy married Cortney and now I have a daughter in-law. I talk quite a bit about “my boys” which are my two dogs who I love to hang out with. Buddy is a Brittany and Buster is a Boston Terrier. When I am not on the road visiting with my wonderful school clients I love to hang out with my family and friends. Thanks MAFAA - I enjoy working with all of you.



Hi MAFAA! My name is **Deb Gossman** and I am your campus representative for College Ave Student Loans. Prior to College Ave, I worked for Student Connections/USA Funds, Sallie Mae and USA Group/USA Funds. I was born and raised in Indiana (on a farm) and currently reside in Carmel, IN. I am married, and Larry and I like to spend our time traveling the world when not being with our families and friends. Our last trip took us to Iceland-absolutely beautiful! Our next trip is planned to South America and Antarctica late next year (in their summer!) It's been my pleasure to meet many of the wonderful people of MAFAA and I look forward to meeting more and getting to know you!



Iceland 2018

Beyond the Booth *continued*

Hi! My name is **Diane Borchardt** and I am your Great Lakes representative for FASTChoice, ScholarNet and the Central Disbursement Service (CDS). I've been a proud MAFAA member for my entire financial aid career. Prior to Great Lakes, I was a representative for Education Assistance Corporation and Financial Aid Director at Concordia University St. Paul.

Family, friends, travel, some golf and a little gardening fill my leisure time. And soon I will be spending time in the Burnsville Great Harvest assisting new owners, daughter Brooke and son-in-law Mike.



Diane and husband Randy in Machu Pichu and Oia, Santorini



Runaway Golf—fun photo from the annual Borchardt Golf Tournament. Five brothers, one sister and all their kids and grands compete for trophies and honors.

At right are the Grands: Ahmi, Kieran, Kinsley, Thor and Ronin



2018 MAFAA Exec Council Holiday luncheon



Bridget Johnson, Amanda Cantú, David Vikander, Jessica Crotty, Anne Dahlen, Cathy Schuster, Jesús Hernández Mejía, 2nd row: Carol Swenson, Susan Brady, Lindsay Kagol, Andy Levesque, Thomas Lorendo, Mike Kotchevar, Ben Flieck, Brittany Tweed, Jacquelynn Mol Sletten, Gayle Yamry, Lynette Wahl, Katie Hendrickson, Dick Battig, Sheila Krause, Larry Bloom, Jana Koehler

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS

MAFAA Matters is published online six times per year. Submission deadline for the next issue is **2/1/19**. Please email contributions to MAFAA Matters Editor, Carol Swenson cswenson@ascendiumeducation.org

MAFAA's Statement of Purpose

The Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators (MAFAA) is an association of professionals committed to the principle that no one should be denied access to higher education for financial reasons. MAFAA is dedicated to working with students, educators, policy makers, and others to ensure that adequate programs of financial assistance are available to every student attending a Minnesota institution of higher education.

www.mafaa.org

Living With Passion

Holiday Cheer



Executive Council members sported their favorite holiday attire at the December 14 holiday meeting. Pictured are Ben Flikeid, Gayle Yamry, Bridget Johnson, Thomas Lorendo, Amanda Cantú, Jacquelyn Mol Sletten, Mike Kotchevar, Andy Levesque, and Cathy Schuster. Andy took home the top 'ugly sweater' prize!

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to all MAFAA members celebrating birthdays in January, February, and March, some of whom are listed here.

January 1	Katie Sveen	February 23	Nancy Anderson
January 7	Melissa Rystad	February 26	Jim Rice
January 8	LuGail Hamel	February 27	Melissa Rodriguez
	Meredith Hauer	February 28	Natasha Dyer
January 9	Jess Christensen	February 29	Dianne Danov
	Kendra Reynolds		Stephen Powell
January 14	Patty Harris	March 1	herry Dunaisky
January 16	Maria Sevaireid	March 2	LaNita Robinson
January 17	Cathy Schuster	March 3	Cappy Breuer
	Kathy Spray		Nadine Schuts
January 19	Phuong Tran	March 4	Becky Billman
January 20	Louise Geyer	March 6	Becky Davis
January 24	Paula Benson		Jayne Wobig
January 25	Pat Pierce	March 9	Tom Hensch
January 26	Denise Peck		Angie Christensen
	Kathy Ruby	March 10	Natasha Dyer
January 27	Laura Ellwager		Kelly Running
	Karla Glasser	March 11	Sue Caquelin
January 28	Brittany Goff	March 13	Carol Swenson
	Brian Braskich	March 15	Jessie Swedberg
January 31	Catherine McCartan	March 18	Sara Nephew
February 2	Scott Riley	March 19	Judy Swanson
February 3	Connie Smisek	March 20	helly Zakariasen
February 5	Kathie Hill	March 21	Valerie Bovee
February 6	Ali Facklam	March 22	Erin Wayne
February 7	Ann Scott		Serena Williams
	Rachel Tanquist	March 24	Jeffrey Bishop
February 12	Melanie Dehn		Christina Koss
	Linda Gibeau	March 25	Paul Terrio
February 14	Kayla Pahlen	March 26	Jill Hanna
	Craig Sanderson	March 27	Gayle Yamry
February 16	Marlene Coon	March 28	Brad Riebel
February 18	Janice Cordell		Dick Battig
February 21	Scott Roelke		Stephanie Musgrove
February 22	Derek Bauer	March 29	Kristine Witt
	Sue Herrmann	March 31	Carl Huber
			Monica Ehalt
			Larry Werner
			Debra Beal
			Nina Dubois
			Kay Grabarkewitz

Live With Passion!