MAFAA Spring Conference Agenda

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  Registration  Golf Villa A and B

10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  Vendor Displays Open  Golf Villa A and B

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.  Lunch  Inn Dining Room

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  President’s Welcome, Kathy Ruby, MAFAA President  Town Hall Ballroom

1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.  40th Anniversary Presentation  Town Hall Ballroom

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  Interest Sessions

- **2009-2010 FAFSA Overview**  Golf Villa C
  Jamie Malone, Training Officer, U.S. Department of Education
  Designed for the beginner this session will provide line by line guidance of the 2009-10 FAFSA with an emphasis on determining Independent Status and issues surrounding possible documentation requirements.

- **Communication with college presidents**  Golf Villa D
  Anita Baugh
  Stuart Perry
  Kathy Ruby
  Mike Uran

- **Determining Eligibility with NSLDS**  Anderson G, Town Hall
  Ann Scott, Training Coordinator, Great Lakes Educational Loan Services
  Sometimes when students apply for loans, they bring along “baggage” in the form of bankruptcy, prior defaults, disability discharges and aggregate loan balances that exceed the legal limits – all of which have an effect on their eligibility. In this session we will discuss how these conditions appear in NSLDS and what can be done to resolve them and help students regain eligibility. We will also demonstrate how to get a truer picture of aggregate loan amounts for borrowers who have consolidated their loans, and show how NSLDS applies a formula for breaking out subsidized and unsubsidized amounts in consolidations.

- **Post-9/11 GI Bill**  Pillsbury, Town Hall
  Barbara Stettler, Education Liaison Representative, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
  An overview of the new educational assistance program for those who served on active duty after 9/10/2001 for an aggregate period of at least 90 days. The new program is effective August 1, 2009.

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  Break  Golf Villa Foyer

3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.  General Session  Town Hall Ballroom

- **If You Build It, Will They Come?: Financial Aid Literacy and Diverse Communities**
  Jennifer Godinez, Director, Minnesota College Access Network
  This presentation will highlight the “Promising Practices” of working on reaching out to students of color and low income youth with financial aid information. It will highlight the cultural community assets that financial aid counselors can identify in order to assure more outreach of information related to financing higher education amongst communities of color. The practices are gathered from the Minnesota College Access Network (MCAN) experiences training youth, families, and practitioners on financial aid and college access themes. The session’s title—“If You Build It, Will They Come?” also alludes to current practices in the field that should be reflected upon and perhaps challenged in order to reach out to more unique family circumstances with much-needed financial aid.
Information. Groups such as undocumented youth, homeless youth, and others will be discussed in this presentation.

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. **Interest Sessions**

- **Financial Aid Process for Foster Youth and Homeless Youth**  
  **Anderson G, Town Hall**  
  Cheryl Maplethorpe, Director, Division of Student Financial Aid, Office of Higher Education  
  Judy Swanson, Associate Director, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities  
  We will discuss the new questions on the 2009-2010 FAFSA that allow foster and homeless youth to be considered independent students and the verification documentation available to them. Other issues about foster and homeless youth will be addressed, including the Education Tuition Voucher (ETV) and recommended college support services.

- **MN GI Bill and MN Achieve Scholarship**  
  **Pillsbury, Town Hall**  
  Megan FitzGibbon, Manager of State Scholarship Programs, Minnesota Office of Higher Education  
  This session will provide a review of the Minnesota GI Bill and the Minnesota Achieve Scholarship and provide an update on the processes and procedures. It will also cover the online applications and school functions.

- **One on One with Jamie Malone**  
  **Golf Villa C**  
  Jamie Malone, Training Officer, U.S. Department of Education  
  Format – Q & A - Are there questions about Reauthorization that you are still searching for answers to? Here’s your opportunity to receive answers to those questions as well as other questions you may have - ACG/SMART? Lender Lists? Get the answers directly from the Department of Education. If you like, you can just sit back and listen to the discussion.

- **Using Facebook and Other Social Media to Interact with Students**  
  **Golf Villa D**  
  Ben Reed, Financial Aid Officer, Anoka Technical College  
  Shannon Schaaf, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, College of St. Catherine  
  This session will look at the use of social media on college campuses. Through the lens of Facebook, we will see how other colleges are using these new tools to connect with students in new and powerful ways. We will focus on the basics – setting up your presence on Facebook, best practices, and successful strategies.

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **Dinner**  
8:00 p.m. **Charity Fundraising Activities**

Thursday, May 7, 2009

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast**  
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **Final Conference Registration**  
8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. **General Session**  

- **Brett Lief, President, NCHELP**  
  Washington update.

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Featured Speaker**  

- **Dr. Philip Day, President/CEO, NASFAA**

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Break**

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Vendor Displays Open**
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Interest Sessions

- “Correct Me If I’m Wrong” – The Basics of Federal Verification
  Sandy Sundstrom, Senior Associate Director of Financial Aid, St. Olaf College
  This session will guide participants through the basics of the federal verification process. Verification requirements, policies, data elements, documentation and resolution will be covered as participants work through a verification case study.

- Fundamentals of Financial Literacy
  Tracy Drechsler, Total Higher Education
  Marilyn Kosir, Student Loan Manager, Minnesota Office of Higher Education
  Literacy: the ability to read and write. Financial literacy: the ability to make appropriate personal financial decisions. How do your students score on the financial literacy report card? How can we help them become more financially literate? The MAFAA Loan Issues Committee has created financial literacy presentation materials that you may use to help your students improve their financial literacy. Information on personal budgeting, credit scores and reports, and responsible borrowing will be the primary focus of this session.

- NCI Question/Answer Session
  Dr. Philip Day

- Survey of the Most Important Audit Findings
  Tim Medd, State Auditor, Minnesota Office of Higher Education
  Top 10 MN audit findings.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Vendor Displays Open

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Interest Sessions

- Income Based/Public Service Repayment
  David Dahlen, Director of Student Financial Aid/Registrar, Mayo Clinic – College of Medicine
  Legislative changes have created some of the most complex loan portfolios in the history of financial aid. In addition, changes have been made that will affect how your borrowers repay these loans. The Income-Based Repayment and Public Service Loan Forgiveness programs will be invaluable tools which will help low income/high debt borrowers. However, there are some unintended consequences in the legislation which will leave you scratching your head. Come to this session to see what they are….

- One on One with Jamie Malone
  Jamie Malone, Training Officer, U.S. Department of Education
  Format – Q & A - Are there questions about Reauthorization that you are still searching for answers to? Here’s your opportunity to receive answers to those questions as well as other questions you may have - ACG/SMART? Lender Lists? Get the answers directly from the Department of Education. If you like, you can just sit back and listen to the discussion.

- Professional Judgment
  Rick Shipman, Director, Office of Financial Aid, Michigan State University 2008-2009 MASFAA President
  Professional Judgment is one of the most powerful authorities granted to student financial aid professionals by Congress. Eligibility for financial aid can be established or increased through the exercise of this authority. But, unlike many of the rules in student financial aid, Professional Judgment does not come with a clear set of dos and don’ts. In fact, it is the vague guidance provided by the federal government that lets the aid officer handle so many unique situations. This session will lay out the rules and then use an interactive approach to see how attendees would handle a variety of real life situations.

- Review of Academic Transcripts
  Ginny Dodds, Manager, State Aid Programs, Minnesota Office of Higher Education
This training session will show financial aid administrators how to review academic transcripts to determine the amount of previous postsecondary education the student has attended for purposes of State Grant and Postsecondary Child Care Grant eligibility. The session will provide an overview of applicable policies and procedures, as well as the review of several student transcripts. Attendees are encouraged to bring overhead transparencies of complex transcripts that are difficult to assess.

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Interest Sessions

- **Catch Me If You Can, Identity Theft Overview**
  Mike Mutziger, Vice President Marketing and Sales, North Central Region, Great Lakes Educational Loan Services, Inc.
  Deter, Detect and Defend yourself. Identity Theft is increasing – how you can educate others and protect yourself – a few simple pointers.

- **Excel for Smart, Nice People**
  Robert Bode, Director of Financial Aid, Metropolitan State University
  An introduction to Microsoft Excel 2007 covering the basics of data entry, functions and formatting.

- **Review of FA Profession**

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sector Meetings

- Associates – Golf Villa C
- Private non-profit – Golf Villa D
- U of M – Anderson G, Town Hall
- State Universities – Ramsey, Town Hall
- Two year public – Ramsey, Town Hall
- Private for profit – Anderson F, Town Hall

*Non financial supporting Associate Members (Trio, etc.) should attend their respective school type meeting.*

6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. Social Hour (Cash Bar Available)

6:45 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Banquet and Awards

**MASFAA Update**
Rick Shipman, Director, Office of Financial Aid, Michigan State University
2008-2009 MASFAA President

*Please join us as MAFAA celebrates its Ruby 40th Anniversary. Dress for the banquet is business casual – with a festive twist. The twist is that you are encouraged to wear red. Let’s have fun and make this anniversary come alive by being visible with red as we celebrate our Ruby Year together at Madden’s.*

Immediately Following Bonfire

Friday, May 8, 2009

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  Interest Sessions

- **Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program**  
  Pillsbury, Town Hall  
  Megan FitzGibbon, Manager of State Scholarship Programs, Minnesota Office of Higher Education  
  Lara Gerhardson, MISP Outreach Liaison  
  This session will cover the MN Indian Scholarship Program and its outlook for the next year. Lara Gerhardson will discuss her role as the Outreach Liaison for the program. The online application system, including the student application and school functions, will also be covered.

- **Summer Pell Grant Calculations**  
  Golf Villa C  
  Jamie Malone, Training Officer, U.S. Department of Education  
  With the advent of the new year-round Federal Pell Grant, this session will focus on eligibility requirements and the calculation of the Pell award during Summer Sessions.

- **TEACH Grant Round Table**  
  Golf Villa D  
  M.E.G. Calabrese, Loan Unit Manager, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities  
  Valerie Knopp, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, St. Cloud State University  
  Sandy Sundstrom, Senior Associate Director of Financial Aid, St. Olaf College  
  Jane Williams, Director of Financial Aid, Concordia College  
  A grant, a loan, or a groan...what is it really? If your school participates in the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant and you want to learn what others are doing, this is a session for you. If your school is considering participating in the TEACH Grant and you’re not sure where to begin, this is a session for you. Or maybe it's neither...you want to first learn more before implementing the TEACH Grant on your campus. This session will be an opportunity for you to share and learn about administration of the grant, pitfalls and challenges, and maybe even how to effectively work through campus politics or pressures from other departments to implement it. This will not be a session on the intricacies of regulations surrounding TEACH – for that you need to ask Jamie.

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  Business Meeting  
  Town Hall Ballroom

10:30 a.m. –11:30 a.m.  State Update, Cheryl Maplethorpe, Minnesota Office of Higher Education  
  Town Hall Ballroom

  Federal Update, Jamie Malone, U.S. Department of Education  
  Town Hall Ballroom

  Closing, Lois Larson, 2009-2010 MAFAA President  
  Town Hall Ballroom

* The Conference Evaluation Form will be online after the conclusion of spring conference.