



The WyASFAA Election results are in. Congratulations to Scott McFarland on being chosen for President-Elect, and to Shelby Garner as Secretary. They will start their duties following the conference in April. The 2018-2019 WyASFAA Board will be:

President: Shannon Eskam, *Casper College*
President-Elect: Scott McFarland, *Central Wyoming College*
Past-President: Susan Stephenson, *Eastern Wyoming College*
Treasurer: Brenda Haseman, *Sheridan College (NWCCD)*
Secretary: Shelby Garner, *Casper College*

Dust off your Cassettes and Walkmans;
Slip on your RayBans and leg warmers;
And join us at Casper College where we will be

Kickin' it Old School



Confused about year-round Pell? Befuddled by all the new rules surrounding cybersecurity? Overcome by all the stress that new regulations are causing? Do we have a deal for you! The conference committee is working hard to put the finishing touches on this year's program. The only thing missing now is you! **Join us April 26-27th on the Casper College campus where we will be "Kickin' it Old School."** Learn about veterans and international students; find out who your friendly neighborhood TRiO person is and how they can help you; learn some mindfulness techniques to help you melt away a stressful day or

situation; plus so much more! If you act now, you will also get: networking opportunities, RNASFAA info, fun, and a few surprises along the way. [Register online now!](#) Watch for program info coming soon!

Don't forget about our **conference philanthropy project, Seton House!** Start a box of donations now and reach out to others in your office to contribute to this great cause. For a list of needed items, [see their website.](#)

We know **WyASFAA's Got Talent**—let's let everyone else know that as well! Each member of RNASFAA's Association News Team is tasked with writing a piece about someone within their state organization that has a secret (or maybe not-so-secret) talent! Do you or someone in your office have a talent you would like to share with our region? Please reach out to Brenda Haseman, bhaseman@sheridan.edu, with the talent and contact information by May 1.

Don't forget to [apply for RNASFAA's 2018-2019 Leadership Pipeline](#). This NASFAA award-winning program is a great professional mentoring program for newer financial aid administrators and "seasoned" ones who need energizing or who want to get involved. Selected mentees join a program cohort with whom they will spend a twelve-month period engaging in leadership training, group discussion, and informational reading and exercises. Mentees are strategically paired with seasoned RNASFAA mentors and the mentee/mentor relationship is intended to enhance and solidify the experience in the program and typically results in a lifelong contact and friend.

Registration for RNASFAA's 2018 Summer Institute is open! This year SI will be at Colorado College in beautiful Colorado Springs, CO June 3-8. Get ready to get in shape, because as we all know, financial aid is not a spectator sport! Join your colleagues at all experience levels in classes like *Soccer, Football, Quidditch, Decathlon* and *Cardboard Tube Dueling*, taught by experienced FA professionals and maybe pick up a NASFAA credential! Cost is \$750 for RNASFAA members.



Want to go to Summer Institute but your institution has a tight budget? Consider applying for the **DMCI Summer Institute Scholarship!** Although preference will be given to applicants who promote equity and inclusion, please do not hesitate to apply should you be interested in the mission of the DMCI Committee and inclusion advocacy.

Now onto our eighth **school spotlight!**



Western Wyoming Community College



Year established:

Western Wyoming Community College was established in 1959, the fifth of seven community colleges in Wyoming. The college started with 40 students and now serves over 4,400 credit and 2,000 non-credit students per year.

Western has its main campus in Rock Springs and a campus in Green River. Outreach centers are in Carbon, Lincoln, Sublette, and Uinta counties.

Financial Aid Staff:

Director of Financial Aid: **Nicole Castillon.** Nicole's main duties include appeals, federal reporting, regulation compliance, and professional judgment as well as oversight of all aspects of financial aid.

Financial Aid Advisor: **Anne Shipman.** Anne oversees the federal direct loans, external scholarships, federal work-study program, default monitoring, and serves as the school certifying official for veterans seeking VA benefits.

Financial Aid Assistant: **DeeAnna Archuleta.** DeeAnna oversees all areas of the financial aid packaging system. She is also the person taking care of verification, R2T4, and athletic scholarships as well as FAFSA issues. She also helps in other areas of financial aid as needed.

Financial Aid Process Assistant: **Megan Norton.** Megan oversees the Hathaway Scholarship, Sweetwater County Scholarship, and maintains the Academic Works Scholarship Site. She also helps in other areas of financial aid.

Student Service Assistant: **Dawn Buchanan.** Dawn is our first point of contact for financial aid in our student center, Mustang Central. She assists students with anything from answering financial aid questions to helping students with their FAFSAs and so much more.

Tell us a bit about your school:

Western has approximately 3,298 credit students per semester and 1,178 non-credit students.

32% full-time, 68% part-time

91% from Wyoming, 51% from Sweetwater County,

8% from out-of-state, 1% international

Scholarships and other aid awarded for FY16:

Pell: \$2.15 million

Federal Student Loans: \$1.85 million

Institutional Aid: \$1.96 million

State Aid: \$828,000

Scholarships: \$237,000



Western offers a variety of programs. The surrounding industry plays an important role in some of the programs that are offered. Programs such as oil and gas technology, welding, industrial maintenance, electrical apprenticeship, automotive and diesel technology are popular. Our nursing program is in very high demand; last year there were more than 80 qualified applicants for only 30 open slots.

What is a favorite event or activity at your school?

One of Western's favorite events of the year is Senior Day. Every March, our college hosts an all-day event for prospective students. Last year we had over 300 students participate. Not only do the students get to enjoy the day here at Western, but they also have a chance to compete for scholarships. Local businesses are very generous with their donations—not only prizes, but also cash donations. This allows Western to offer a money booth that students enter and grab cash.

What's the best (or worst!) thing about working in your Financial Aid Office?

The following email was just received by the financial aid department and it encompasses the best of times and the worst of times:

"Dear Western financial aid representative. I apologize for my lack of effort and no completion of m[y] previous college courses that I attended online. It was very difficult and I plan to attend the actual campus in August. I am willing to do whatever it takes to make up for my horrible attendance. And I hope I can solve my financial aid with a sort of get out of jail free card."

This pretty much sums up working in financial aid. We didn't even have to edit out a name because the student didn't include it in his/her message.

Are there any unique or unusual facts/stories/legends about your school or in its history?



Western Wyoming Community College is a beautiful facility. Our top attractions outside of academics are: Dinosaurs, Moai Statues, National History, Wildlife Museum, Statues & Art, Pendulum, and, of course, Mustang Central Financial Aid Department (they are just amazing).

In 1959, when Western Wyoming Community College got its start in Reliance, there were only 40 students. The Reliance site was long referred to as "high school with ashtrays." We have since become a smoke-free campus.

In addition to strong academic programs, we also value other programs such as athletics, theater, speech and debate to name a few. Western continues to grow with the times adding programs and certificates. Western is a community-based college offering many activities to community members.

Western Wyoming Community College, home of the Mustangs, is a very impressive facility. We encourage everyone to drop by when visiting Rock Springs. Free dinosaur eggs are provided with every visit.

This month's member highlight is Financial Aid Advisor, **Anne-Marie Shipman!**



How long have you been in financial aid?

I have been in financial aid almost two years. Previously, I worked in the Business Office at WWCC, Overall, I have been at the same institution for 28 years.

The person who was in my current position of Financial Aid Advisor retired. This gave me an opportunity to change jobs. At that time, I felt like I could use a change. In addition, this position required a bachelor's degree and allowed me to use my degree. Such positions don't come up very often, the timing was good.

What is your favorite and/or least favorite thing about your job?

My favorite thing is the interaction with students. This position allows me to visit with students on a regular basis. I try to do my best to encourage students in their educational pursuit. This may entail several visits in my

office, but the rewards are great when these students actually succeed. It is important to establish a relationship with students so they feel valued. This may make the difference between success and failure.

I also serve as the School Certifying Official for the VA students. This is another aspect of my position that provides satisfaction. It is important to me that this segment of the student population is served well.

The least favorite thing is to see students fail when they actually have everything in place to make it. In many cases, these particular students don't take their studies seriously or just don't care. When I see resources such as scholarships or other aid go to waste, I feel like maybe we could have done more to address these problems early on to avoid failure.

What are your hobbies, talents and/or quirks?

I found that running has helped me relieve stress. WWCC has a great wellness center that is open to employees; I try to take advantage of it. In the winter, I love to ski. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to go as often as I would like. Most of all, I enjoy spending time with my family.

What is special about the place you grew up and why?

I grew up in a small town in Switzerland. It was a great place for a child to experience. This community was close-knit, everyone knew everyone. At that time, parents didn't have to worry about letting their children play outside without parental supervision. Neighbors looked out for one another. There was plenty to do such as riding bicycles, hiking, swimming and in the winter, sledding or skiing. Everything was available within walking distance. We also got to enjoy dances and small theatre plays now and then.



What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?

When I was growing up my parents and grandparents always told us that we had plenty of time to realize our goals or dreams. I find that as I get older time flies by and enjoying life fully at any age is important.

When asked about Anne, Director Nicole Castillon had this to say: Anne is a great addition to our department. She always has a positive attitude and is willing to help out wherever we need her. Anne and I have made some crazy mistakes together and we have had our fair share of laughing, screaming and coming close to crying fixing those mistakes. What I appreciate the most about Anne is her commitment to students and her willingness to go above and beyond. I also love when she brings me back Swiss chocolate from when she visits her family in Switzerland! ☺