

2017 Wyoming High School Counselor Workshop



Welcome!

We're glad you're here!



We are delighted to welcome you to the 2017 WyASFAA High School Counselors Workshop. I'm Susan Stephenson, Financial Aid Director at Eastern Wyoming College and the 2017-2018 WyASFAA President. You might wonder why there is a picture of a kitten and a puppy on your screen right now. First, because it's kind of weird to have a random voice doing a presentation and not have someone in front of you *doing* the presentation. I can guarantee that kittens and puppies are WAY cuter than I am. Plus, a lot of the financial aid topics we cover are confusing and can be difficult to understand, but we want you to enjoy your time with us and who DOESN'T feel warm and fuzzy after looking at a cute animal picture?!? So, bear with us as we slog through the tough stuff. Think of cute animals, ask lots of questions, and use us as resources to help your students throughout the year.

What is WyASFAA?

We are 70+ college funding administrators across the state who manage and award everything from federal aid like Pell Grants, to Hathaway Scholarships, to institutional scholarships, to Veterans benefits. We are invested in helping Wyoming's students complete college and succeed!



So, what is this whole “-ASFAA” thing???

WyASFAA stands for the Wyoming Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. We include members who work in various areas of federal, state, and institutional aid processing from the University and every community college, plus some associate members who work with outside agencies like loan servicers and third-party software reps. We are all dedicated to getting our students (and their families) the most funding we can to help them afford college costs. This means providing them with multiple sources of information, one of the most important of which is YOU!

High school counselors are often the first and best source of ALL college information for students at the time they need it most. Our goal is to work with you to get them that information, get them contacts at our schools, feel comfortable with the processes of applying for all kinds of aid, and ensure that they are not afraid to ask questions. I think I can speak for all financial aid administrators across the state when I say that even if you aren't coming to *our* school, I can help get you the information you need. We work together a lot and our loyalty lies first with our students and their success.

Our new format



Rather than having ONE day across the state, we are holding multiple days at multiple sites to better accommodate schedules.

For those of you who have attended our High School Counselor Workshops before, you'll know that we used to have one day for this workshop for the whole state. This worked okay when we all had the WEN system, although sometimes the sound and picture quality wasn't the best.

When WEN went away, we tried other online resources to do the same thing and found that the technology restrictions were too difficult for this to be optimal.

Last year due to scheduling difficulties and personnel changes, some schools just held their own workshop for counselors in their area, and we found that most counselors tended to like this best.

So this year, we combined approaches. Every school will offer a workshop based on the same WyASFAA material for consistency across the state, but we implemented the flexibility of having multiple dates available that worked best for school and counselor schedules. The invitation to counselors included all dates available so if you couldn't attend the one at the school closest to you, you'd still have the option of finding another one to attend.

We hope this format works for you, but as always, we are open to suggestions. Our goal is to serve your needs and the needs of your students, so we welcome your comments and can change to suit your needs.

Resources

New website:
*[wyasfaa.wixsite.com/wyasfaa/
hs-counselor-workshop](http://wyasfaa.wixsite.com/wyasfaa/hs-counselor-workshop)*

If you don't see something
you need, ask us!



For those of you who may have previously visited our wyasfaa.org web page, you might have noticed that it no longer exists. As part of WyASFAA's goals to improve services while also reducing expenses, we are transitioning to a new website via Wix that will hopefully provide you with needed information in a more useable format. We will also have a page dedicated specifically to resources and links you might find helpful, like studentaid.ed.gov or to the Federal Student Aid Counselors and Mentors Handbook, so you have one stop to get information you need.

The colleges should be providing you with the password to access the Workshop presentation and resource materials online. Once all of the workshops are complete, the password requirement will be waived and it will be open access to all.

Contact info



List of WyASFAA members on website or email:

WyASFAA@gmail.com

You will also be able to find contact information for all members across the state. We hope this makes it easier to find the person you are looking for rather than having to search school websites for directory info, which can be cumbersome and not produce the desired results.

You can also just email WyASFAA@gmail.com and we will answer your question or get you to the person you need.

Let's get started with today's workshop! Topics for today include:

Today's topics



- Resources
 - EOC
- Financial Aid Basics
- Current Issues/Updates
- Verification /FAFSA basics
- SAP/Impact of Advising
 - Hathaway
- Counselor Best Practices



See you next year!



Please complete the survey!

We welcome ALL suggestions
for improving this workshop!

Please ask questions today, use the resources provided and contact us with any issues or requests. Be sure to complete the workshop survey.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months and to seeing you around the same time next year!