

What's Up WyASFAA?

Wyoming Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

A Word From Our President

Summer, for all the so-called calmness it implies, is really just like sitting in a race car that is revving its engine, ever so subtly warning me things are about to take off. After wrapping up commencement celebrations, working on end of year processes while planning for the upcoming academic year, I know this lull is short lived yet much needed.

We have had so many wonderful things happen as an organization within the last year that it would be impossible to name them all. A few highlights are the updates of our committee members and WyASFAA board. A huge thank you to everyone for your willingness to help and I can't wait to see what the year has in store for us.

Our organization has had a lot of personal achievements among our members as well (something I can't wait for you to read more about on page 2). Amazing accomplishments, I pass my congratulations to you all!

WyASFAA would not be what it is without each of you. Your dedication to the profession, state, institutions and our students is reflected in the things you do every day. Which is why I will now selfishly put a plug in for you all to consider joining RMASFAA's Leadership Pipeline. I couldn't be more excited to see who signs on next and encourage you all to do so. I would love to see a strong representation from our small but mighty state (no doubt part of my competitive nature—cough, cough, Scott).

I'm going to ask that each of you reach out to your committee members to give feedback, suggestions, and other thoughts so we can make this what it is—your organization. We have some great things planned but feedback from our members is always appreciated.

So while I hope that we can all enjoy our warm days, some bar-b-ques, time with friends and family and some relaxation I wish you all the best. I look forward to the year as your WyASFAA President as we 'zoom' towards fall (ha, okay, I'm done).

~Shannon Eskam

WyASFAA Newsletter Gets a New Look

At the April business meeting, you voted and it was decided that the majority of you would like to see the newsletter continue.

As the communication committee, Anna Miller and Shelby Garner have decided to rename the newsletter to highlight our organization's fun spirit and great members. We hope you enjoy reading it and catching up with the latest happenings in WyASFAA.

We also invite you to send feedback and suggestions on things you'd like to see in the newsletter in the future. We look forward to a fun year and lots of great stories to share with all of you!

June 2018

Volume 2, Issue 1

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Special points of interest:

- Newsletter gets a new look!
- Applications for Leadership Pipeline are approaching
- Welcome new committees and committee members!
- Focus on Positivity

Welcome to Our New Committees!

At our business meeting in April, several of our members volunteered to be part of various committees within our organization. Please welcome the following people and committees:

Communication Committee

Shelby Garner- Casper College

Anna Miller- Casper College

Website Committee

Heidi Balster- NWCCD

Lacey Shandera- LCCC

Wyoming HS Counselor Workshop

Chanda Richards- NWCCD

Deb Karst- NWC

Scott McFarland- CWC

Shannon Eskam- Casper College

Kelcie McBride- EWC

Conference Planning Committee

Scott McFarland- CWC

Shannon Eskam- Casper College

Nicole Castillon- WWCC

If you are interested in helping out with one of our committees, please let Shannon know so that she can give you the details. We look forward to the amazing work that is sure to come from these collaborations!



And the Award Goes To...

The end of the academic year is always an exciting one. For some, it marks the graduation of a loved one, be it from pre-school, high school, or college. In many of our offices it is also a time to honor our friends and colleagues with awards and recognition for a job well done. We reached out to everyone recently to let us know about any milestones reached or special recognitions received in your offices and here is the list we received back:

Central Wyoming College

Scott McFarland and Michelle Scott both received the "5 Years of Service" award

Tasha Plumb takes over as Classified Staff Association President for 2018/2019

Scott McFarland takes over as Professional Staff Association President for 2018/2019

LCCC

Michelle Massey was awarded the LCCC Classified Employee of the Year award. Brandi added "It was very exciting, as we did not know the winner until the ceremony, only the nominees."

Casper College

Laurie Johnstone graduated from Arizona State University with her Master's Degree in Liberal Studies

Anna Miller graduated from the University of Wyoming with her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration

Danielle Gallegos graduated from Colorado State University with her Bachelor's Degree in Applied Social Science

Mala Stagg was accepted into the Music Therapy program at St. Mary of the Woods College in Indiana

Laurie Johnstone takes over as Administrative Alliance President for 2018/2019

Shannon Eskam takes over as Administrative Alliance Vice President for 2018/2019

The Casper College Financial Aid office received the GearUp Partner of the Year award

Congratulations to you all! If you know of someone who may have been omitted from this amazing list, please let us know so that we can be sure to acknowledge them in a future issue.



Upcoming Dates

The deadline to apply for Leadership Pipeline through RMASFAA is fast approaching. If you are interested please be sure to turn in your application and supporting documents (sounds like financial aid, doesn't it?) by June 30th. You can find the application [here](#) or by going to the conferences section of the WyASFAA website. I can't speak for the other two graduates, but I can say personally that it was a great experience and I would love to add more WyASFAA folks to the list of alums. If you have any questions about the program, please talk to your

director, one of the graduates, or you can e-mail Brenda Hicks who is in charge of the program this year. You won't be disappointed!

The Annual RMASFAA conference will be held this year in Fargo, ND October 7-10. This year marks the 50th anniversary of our organization, and the word on the street is that they are planning one heck of a shindig. We will post more information about the conference as the date draws closer. If you have never attended a

RMASFAA conference before, please think about joining us this year!

If you know of any upcoming dates that we need to be aware of, please submit them to Shelby or Anna.

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Ten Second Topics

- ◆ WySAC (Wyoming Student Affairs Conference) took place at Central Wyoming College on May 30th and CCA (Complete College America) was held on May 31st. There were several great presentations and discussions about student affairs. There was also further discussion on the Completion Agenda and where each school stands on some of the initiatives.
 - ◆ Dr. Rose, Executive Director of the Wyoming Community College Commission retired and has been replaced by Dr. Sandy Caldwell.
- Have a topic you'd like to see here? E-mail Shelby or Anna and we'll get it in the next issue!

What Do You Meme?

Life is too short to sit and read boring stories all day! Let's have some fun and see who can create or find the best (work appropriate) financial aid meme. Send your submissions to Shelby or Anna and we'll include one or two each month. Here are my favorites:



Submitted by Shelby





Shannon Eskam- President
 Scott McFarland- President-Elect
 Susan Stephenson- Past President
 Shelby Garner- Secretary
 Brenda Haseman- Treasurer

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WyASFAA is a professional organization dedicated to assisting the nearly 40,000 students enrolled in Wyoming's institutions of higher education, their parents, and the schools and agencies that work collaboratively in disseminating information and administering the various financial aid programs available to Wyoming's students.

Final Thoughts

It has been suggested that our newsletter include information that can help us improve professionally and personally. This can come in many different forms and we will strive to change things up each month. If you have a suggestion for a topic you would like to see in this section, let us know! This month, let's focus on positive thinking:

Putting Positive Thinking Into Practice

<u>Instead of saying/thinking:</u>	<u>Try:</u>
I've never done it before	It's an opportunity to learn something new
It's too complicated	I'll tackle it from a different angle
I don't have the resources	Necessity is the mother of all invention
I'm too lazy to get this done	I wasn't able to fit it into my schedule, but I can re-examine some priorities
There's no way it will work	I can try to make it work
It's too radical a change	Let's take a chance
No one bothers to communicate with me	I'll see if I can open the channels of communication
