

# 2017 TASFAA Annual Report



*Celebrating 50 Years of Service*  
*1967 ★ 2017*

*Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators*

# TASFAA Leadership

## President's Letter

by Alan D. Ahmad

Dear TASFAA:

Fifty years ago, a conversation at the 1967 SWASFAA Conference (New Orleans) led to the establishment of the Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and a steering committee that addressed the type, organization structure, financing and purpose of the group. Not long after, the Executive Committee wrote the *Constitution & Bylaws* and President Mack Adams was presiding over the one hundred financial aid officers attending the first Fall Conference in Austin. By 1980, TASFAA's members had provided consulting services to Texas financial aid offices, established the TASFAA Telephone Network, introduced the New Aid Officers Workshop initiative and was the third largest state association of its kind.

This Association is still on the move.

TASFAA continues to fulfill its mission regardless of the political climate, societal issues and economic landscape. This past year we have:

- Explored new training events with two-day regional training, new NAOW location, and introducing sponsorship opportunities;
- Created six separate position and impact papers and opened some doors for future training during the 85th Legislative Session.
- Received recognition for the Associations efforts during the past fifty years with the adoption of Senate SR658 and House HR1546 resolutions;
- Further developed a mentor/protégé plan and online registration process;
- Expanded our communication efforts with the TASFAA Star blogs, surveys and LinkedIn group;
- Participated in efforts to assist institutions affected by hurricane damage;
- Continued conversations to align projects with those of the NASFAA and SWASFAA.
- Begun development of a multi-year, collaborative leadership strategic plan.
- Strengthened relationships with our corporate partners;
- Recognized the service of member institutions with TASFAA 50th anniversary certificates

All of this and more is powered by volunteers and others that support our basic purpose of *providing students with the resources and choices necessary to access higher education opportunities.*

TASFAA's endurance and trail of successes proves that we remain relevant fifty years after that meeting in New Orleans. And so I ask that you continue to recognize the value this Association has in your professional life and our community and support it in any way that you can. Our future is as bright and full of achievements as we, together, make it.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your 2016-17 TASFAA President and for your service to this community and the students of Texas.

God Bless.

Alan D. Ahmad



# Officers 2016-17

## President

Alan D. Ahmad, Alamo Colleges District

## Secretary/Historian

Devon Wiggins, Tyler Junior College

## Vice President

Delisa Falks, Texas A&M University

## President Elect

Christopher D. Murr, Ph.D., Texas State University

## Past President

Shannon L Crossland, Texas Tech University

## Treasurer

Fabian Vasquez, Texas Tech University HSC

## Board Members

Eric K Cooper, Texas A&M University - San Antonio

Delisa Falks, Texas A&M University

Jeannie Gage, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi

Carolyn J Jones, Collin County Community College

Raul H Lerma, El Paso Community College

Robert Merino, San Jacinto College

Donnie Purvis, Weatherford College

JoEllen Soucier, Houston Community College System





# TASFAA Mission

## TASFAA Mission Statement

The Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators or “TASFAA” is a professional statewide organization with diverse membership that works towards the ultimate goal of providing students with the resources and choices necessary to access higher education opportunities.

Founded in 1969, TASFAA serves multiple roles including:

- **Encouraging** students to pursue higher education.
- **Promoting** student financial aid programs in the post-secondary institutions of the state.
- **Facilitating** communication, activities, services, and professional development among constituencies involved in student financial aid administration in the state.
- **Inspiring** professional competencies in the field of student financial aid administration.
- **Motivating** innovation and creativity in the financial aid field to span all cohorts.

*Encourage, Promote, Facilitate, Inspire, Motivate*





# TASFAA Committee Reports

## Awards & Scholarships

Dede Gonzales – Texas State University, Chair  
 Guadalupe Barcenas – El Paso Community College  
 Shelley Franks – Tyler Junior College  
 Jael Garcia – University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley  
 Carolyn Mallory – University of Houston – Victoria  
 Bridget Moore – Hardin-Simmons University  
 Norma Urias – El Paso Community College  
 Casey Wells – Tyler Junior College

### Accomplishments of the Awards and Scholarships Committee for 2016-2017

- Restocked the TASFAA service pin supply
- Updated the committee calendar
- Reviewed applications and awarded 6 Mack C. Adams scholarships for the New Aid Officers Workshop in May 2017
- Reviewed applications and awarded 5 Mack C. Adams scholarships for the ABC Workshop in October 2017
- Solicited nominations for the Financial Aid STAR and Hall of Fame Awards
  - Selected Jennifer Massey – Texas State University for the Financial Aid STAR Award
  - TASFAA Board selected Erika Cox – University of Texas San Antonio for the TASFAA Trailblazer award
  - Recommended Raul Lerma – El Paso Community College for the Hall of Fame – Service to TASFAA award
  - Recommended Richard C. (Rick) Renshaw – Department of Education – Friend of TASFAA award
- Determined the 2017 service pin recipients. Pins were given out at the fall conference for those in attendance. Remaining pins were mailed in October.

### Years of Service Pin Recipients

#### 50 Years of Service

Eugene Cattie      National Student Clearinghouse

#### 45 Years of Service

Doris Constantine      St. Edward's University  
 Glenda Huff      Howard Payne University

#### 40 Years of Service

Adriana Marin      Laredo Community College  
 Claire Roemer      US Department of Education  
 Jimmy Parker      Panhandle-Plains Management & Service Corp.  
 Rosario Juarez      Austin Community College  
 Sherry Byrd      Houston Baptist University

#### 35 Years of Service

Carl Gordon      College of the Mainland  
 Celeste Sheehy      Baylor University  
 George Fuller      Great Lakes Educational Loan Services, Inc.  
 Jill Rowley      Lamar University  
 Jolynn Sprole      Tarrant County College  
 Karen Krause      University of Texas - Arlington  
 Katherine Carson      Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
 Kathryn Bryan      Higher Education Servicing Corp / NTHEA  
 Lamar Duarte      Alamo Colleges District  
 Nancy Barnett      Financial Aid Services (FAS)  
 Paulette Walker      Higher Education Servicing Corp / NTHEA  
 Richard Hyde      Wharton County Junior College  
 William Shaffner      Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA)

# TASFAA Committee Reports

## Years of Service Pin Recipients (cont'd)

### 30 Years of Service

Carol Cromie	University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston
Cathryn Adams	Dallas County Community College District
Debbie Oliver	Abilene Christian University
Elsa Ramos	University of Texas - Austin
Elvia Leija	Alamo Colleges District
Harold Whitis	Alamo Colleges District
Lorena Morales	University of Texas - El Paso
MaEsther Francis	Jarvis Christian College
Nikki Moll	Texas Tech University
Patricia Norwood	Southwestern Adventist University
Paula Baxter	University of Texas - Dallas
Raul Lerma	El Paso Community College
Thomas Austin	Houston Community College System
Tomas Campos	Alamo Colleges District
Zena Williams	Lone Star College North Harris

### 25 Years of Service

Amanda Jurovic	Rice University
Becky Hejduk	Texas A&M University - Texarkana
Cecelia Jones	Jarvis Christian College
Chadd Bridwell	St. Mary's University
Craig Poleman	Inceptia
David Ximenez	Tarrant County College
Denise Sullivan	Discover Student Loans
Francine Simpson	Southern Methodist University

Gina Havel-Palmatier	University of Texas - Austin
Jerry Bayer	Baylor University
Jocelyn Zarate	Texas A&M University
Julie Esau	American Student Assistance
Julie Moreno Rehder	ELM Resources
Keema Echols	Kenaly Complement, Inc., The
Kim Bowen	St. Edward's University
Kim Willis	St. Edward's University
Kristin Boyer	TG
Ladosia Arize	Texas A&M University - Commerce
Laura Neal	University of Houston
Linda Slawson	Paris Junior College
Lucy Rodriguez	Alamo Colleges District
Merry Sprague	Wharton County Junior College
Mike Fuller	Texas A&M University - Texarkana
Patricia Villanueva	Alamo Colleges District
Rich Nickel	Sallie Mae
Ruby Dean	University of Houston - Victoria
Terisa Riley	Texas A&M University - Kingsville
Valerie Harrell	Stephen F. Austin State University

### 20 Years of Service

Anne Walker	Rice University
Bessie Long	Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi
Devon Wiggins	Tyler Junior College
Elizabeth Landwermyer	Tarrant County College
Evelyn Rolfe	Schreiner University
Gail Carbajal	University of Texas - San Antonio
Helen Garcia	Our Lady of the Lake University
Irma Walsh	University of Texas - El Paso
James Hubener	Dallas County Community College District
Janet Little	Tarrant County College
Janet Trejo	University of Dallas
Joseph Sanchez	University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth
Karen Collins	Midwestern State University
Karen Lazarz	Dallas County Community College District
Karen Trail	Texas Woman's University
Kelly Graves	Baylor University
Kimberly Engelke	LeTourneau University
Lionel Salinas	Austin Community College
Maria Carrizales	University of Texas - El Paso
Marisela Maldonado	Rice University
Marsha Eldridge	Our Lady of the Lake University
Mary Jones	Southern Methodist University
Melissa Boyer	University of North Texas
Michelle Weedman	University of Texas - Austin
Ngoc Nguyen	Austin Community College
Nora Cargo	Texas A&M University
Pam Evans Evans	Texas State Technical College
Paula Oliver	University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley
Phillip Wambsganss	Higher Education Servicing Corp / NTHEA
Robert Merino	San Jacinto College



# TASFAA Committee Reports

## Years of Service Pin Recipients (cont'd)

Roshanna Mitchell  
Sherry Schroeder  
Stephen McDonald  
Terri Thompson  
Victoria Chen

University of Houston - Downtown  
Aggieland Credit Union  
Dallas County Community College District  
Weatherford College  
Texas Christian University

Amy Downey  
Anabel Garcia  
Andria Cox  
Angelica Smith  
Barbara Arevalos  
Beverly Johnson  
Brenda Thomas  
Bridget Ledesma  
Carrie-Jo Hillebrecht  
Chloe Tran  
Christine Bassett  
Christopher Scott  
Christy Noland  
Daniel Parham  
David Alejandro  
Dena Guzman-Torres  
Diane Charles  
Donna Lee  
Grace Steffey  
Jaci Shovan  
Jacqueline Grayczyk  
Jennifer Evilsizer  
Jennifer Lewis  
Joe Roof  
Kandice Blades  
Lashon Williams  
Lucrecia Green  
Lynda Shipman  
Maria Castillo-Medellin  
Maria Nabers  
Mary Escobar  
Mary Gonzales  
Melanie Jones  
Monja Smith  
Nicole Richmond  
Nicole Luna  
Norma Aguilar  
Paul Schafer  
Paula White  
Rafael Villarreal  
Renisha Woods  
Rhonda Bridges  
Richard Bialek  
Richard Eleazar  
Sandra Henderson  
Sergio Garcia  
Shari Corprew  
Sheree Smiling  
Stephanie Martin  
Tara Cates  
Teresa Tippens  
Valerie Bustillos  
Victoria Thomas  
Zanne Coon

University of Texas - Austin  
Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi  
University of Texas - San Antonio  
St. Mary's University  
Alamo Colleges District  
Texas College  
LeTourneau University  
Texas Christian University  
Lone Star College North Harris  
University of Houston - Downtown  
University of Dallas  
TG  
University of Texas - Austin  
Paris Junior College  
South Texas College  
University of North Texas  
University of North Texas  
Stephen F. Austin State University  
Western Governors University  
Paris Junior College  
Collin County Community College  
Trinity Valley Community College  
Texas Woman's University  
National Student Clearinghouse  
McLennan Community College  
University of Houston - Victoria  
Dallas County Community College District  
Weatherford College  
Texas Southmost College  
University of Texas - San Antonio  
Angelo State University  
Sul Ross State University  
University of Texas - Tyler  
Paris Junior College  
MIAT College of Technology  
University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley  
San Jacinto College  
Texas A&M University  
Paris Junior College  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
Tarrant County College  
South Plains College  
Schreiner University  
University of North Texas  
Collin County Community College  
San Jacinto College  
University of Houston  
University of Texas - Tyler  
North Central Texas College  
Texas Wesleyan University  
Dallas County Community College District  
Tarrant County College  
Houston Community College System  
University of Texas - Austin

## 15 Years of Service

Aimee Anderson  
Alan Ahmad  
Amanda McCrary  
Amparo Cordova  
April Pridgett  
Blanca Camara  
Brenda Juarez  
Christina Ewing  
Christy Miller  
Courtney Adams

Texas State University  
Alamo Colleges District  
Amarillo College  
Texas State University  
MIAT College of Technology  
South Texas College  
El Paso Community College  
Southwestern Assemblies of God University  
Texas Tech University  
Panhandle-Plains Management & Service Corp.  
University of Houston  
Financial Aid TV  
Texas A&M University  
Southwest Texas Junior College  
Austin Community College  
Texas Christian University  
University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston  
University of Texas - Dallas  
Texas A&M University - Kingsville  
Commerce Bancshares, Inc.  
University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley  
Texas Christian University  
Navarro College  
Cisco College  
Lone Star College North Harris  
Austin College  
El Paso Community College  
St. Mary's University  
Sul Ross State University  
South Plains College  
Dallas County Community College District  
University of Texas - San Antonio  
Stephen F. Austin State University  
South Plains College  
Texas Woman's University  
Southwest Texas Junior College  
Schreiner University

Dalia Pineda  
Damon Vangelis  
Deanna Holder  
Diana Garcia  
Diana Hidrogo  
D'Mon Peeples  
Erica Vasquez

Holly Orozco  
Janice Garza  
Jessie McCoy  
Karla Flores  
Kathryn Blackham  
Kristal Nicholson  
Linda Sellers  
Maria Croft  
Marsha Derichsweiler  
Martha Martinez  
Mary Braxton  
Michael Corbett  
Rita Prieto  
Rosa Cardenas  
Rosanna Mendiola  
Sara Williams  
Susan Nazworth  
Vickie Moore  
Yvette Hernandez  
Yvonne Denise Ames

## 10 Years of Service

Abby Goynes  
Adela Espinosa  
Alexandria Ramirez  
Alma Gomez  
Amine Qourzal

University of North Texas  
Stephen F. Austin State University  
Texas Christian University  
Texas Southmost College  
Baylor University



# TASFAA Committee Reports

## Communications & Social Media

Ben Montecillo, Chair - Texas Tech University  
 Angela K Parkoff, Vice-Chair - Texas A&M University  
 Robert Merino, Board Liaison - San Jacinto College  
 Dustin Zimmerman - Collin County Community College

### Stats for 2016-17

#### TASFAA Star Blog:

Subscribers	393
Posts	53
Hits	9273
Pages views	2890
Unique visitors	2013
Hits per unique visitor	4.61
Pages per unique visitor	1.44

#### TASFAA LinkedIn

Members	99
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## Fall Conference

Erika Cox, Chair - University of Texas - San Antonio  
 Sarah Webb, Co-Chair - University of Texas - San Antonio  
 Jael Perez, Vice Chair - University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley  
 Christina Pikla, Vice Chair - Trinity University  
 Jeannie Gage, Board Liaison - Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi  
 Zarita Barton - Lone Star College North Harris  
 Victor Burgos - University of the Incarnate Word  
 Eric K. Cooper - Texas A&M University - San Antonio  
 Juliana Davis - Texas State University  
 Sergio Gonzalez - Sallie Mae  
 Alberto Hernandez - Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi  
 Bridgette Ingram - Texas A&M University  
 Heather Miller - University of the Incarnate Word

This year, TASFAA celebrated its 50th anniversary and the conference represented a look back and reflected a vision for the future. The conference took

place in San Antonio, Texas and had 450 members in attendance.

Our keynote speaker spoke on Positive Psychology and we transition from there to national legislative update with NASFAA's Stephen Payne. After a break with our exhibitors, a federal town hall was hosted inviting the membership to ask questions of Stephen Payne, Rick Renshaw from Federal Student Aid and Lisa Blazer, NASFAA Past National Chair. We tried something new this year in an effort to honor our award recipients by foregoing the opening lunch and instead having an awards reception in the early evening on Wednesday. After being welcomed by mariachis and appetizers, our award reception began by honoring our service pin recipients. Our award winners were as follows:

TASFAA Star: Jennifer Massey

TASFAA Trailblazer: Erika Cox

Hall of Fame Inductees: Raul Lerma and Rick Renshaw

# TASFAA Committee Reports

## Fall Conference (cont'd)

In addition, 24 past presidents were in attendance and acknowledged for their service.

We found out in August that due to construction in the area, our traditional 5K fundraiser for Mack C. Adams would not be feasible. Instead, we offered Morning Stretch, a yoga-based exercise program that took place at the conference hotel. This was facilitated by Dr. Mary Kay Cooper and had 15 participants.

The conference committee received an overwhelming response to its request for proposals and as a result, the conference introduced several tracks for sessions including compliance, professional development, best practices, nuts and bolts and research. The topics appealed to a wide audience and were spaced throughout the day on Thursday. President Alan Ahmad gave a moving address to the membership during the business lunch by acknowledging the hard work all the committees have done throughout the year and new initiatives launched. He in turn introduced Dr. Christopher Murr as the new TASFAA President for 2018. We invited the membership to wear their 80s

best as we celebrated at our Thursday Dinner and Dance featuring the Spazmatics.

Friday morning was devoted to state programs and featured conversations about SB 0887 with Ginger Gossman from THECB and a state Legislative Update with Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Charles Puls.

In addition to all of this learning, TASFAA gave back to both the Mack C. Adams Professional Development Scholarship fund and the San Antonio Food Bank. A special 50th Anniversary shirt was sold and revenue went to the Mack C. Adams fund raising \$2,046. Members and institutions from across TASFAA were generous in donating items to a raffle benefitting the San Antonio Food Bank. We raised \$1,722 through raffle ticket sales.

The conference was immensely successful with plenty of opportunities for networking, learning and celebrating. The goal was to give to the membership a memorable 50th anniversary. We look forward to next year's conference in Galveston, which will be chaired by Jael Perez and Christina Pikla.





# TASFAA Committee Reports

## Early Awareness

**Elizabeth C Mechalske, Chair - Texas Christian University**

**Eric K Cooper, Board Liaison - Texas A&M University- San Antonio**

**Linda C Ballard - Texas Southern University**

**Michelle Enriquez - Citizens Bank**

**Elizabeth C Mechalske - Texas Christian University**

**Debra A Urias - Brazos Group**

**Dustin Zimmerman - Collin County Community College**

Federal Student Aid Training (formerly NT4CM)

No longer supported as NT4CM by FSA the training materials are now generalized. FSA website now includes a toolkit however most of the information covers financial aid as a broader scope. Each host to an early awareness workshop will need to 'create' their own presentations.

Several TASFAA member schools have hosted Early Awareness training in 2016-17. Workshops continue to be scheduled for 2017, with the latest at Texas A&M University in December.

Feedback from those whom have hosted so far this year has been positive. High schools that I have

visited and spoken with their guidance counselors are being very proactive with regards to having their students register for their FSA IDs as well as completing the FAFSA early on. Many conversations regarding income year used versus this being a "Special Circumstance," or reviewed using professional judgement continues to take place.

All in all the message of paying for college is mainly the students' and/or parents' responsibility is being spread. There is help available for those in need. Defining need is an ongoing work.

There has not been a state chair early awareness conference call since August but we have reached out to NASFAA to see where they stand on training with regards to early awareness. No comments on this discussion at this time.

We have welcomed a new member to our committee, Melissa Jones, financial aid advisor from Temple College. We are in the early stages of discussing how important it is to get the message out to middle school students and may try to develop a workshop series geared in this direction.

## Membership

**Amy Ahlas, Chair – Alamo Colleges District**

**Theresa Decker – Alamo Colleges District**

**Keith Hoelscher – Angelo State University**

**Jonathan Miles – Alamo Colleges District**

**Jason Edens – Austin Community College**

**Ana Chavez – Collin College**

**Donnie Purvis – Board Liaison**

1. Focused on contacting past members who had not renewed in the past two years or more
2. Researched institutional closings and updated database accordingly

3. Developed and disseminated custom institutional and vendor membership recognition certificates
4. New members this year: National Student Clearinghouse and Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority

Total membership as of year close out:

Institutions: 164

Individuals: 2148



# TASFAA Committee Reports

## Regional Training

JoEllen Soucier, Chair & Board Liaison - Houston

Community College System

Laura Elizondo - Texas A&M International University

Michelle Enriquez - Citizens Bank

Sharon M Steele - Lee College

Spring 2017, Regional Training activity included:

- Six (6) locations
  - Stephen F Austin State University (2-day event)
  - University of Houston (2-day event)
  - Texas State University-San Marcos (2-day event)
  - Tarrant County Community College (2-day event)
  - El Paso Community College
  - Lubbock Christian University
- Three hundred (300) registered attendees.
- SWASFAA community (New Mexico, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas) invited to attend
- Sponsors included CampusLogic, FATV, ELM

The two-day events were organized as a mini-conference with multiple sessions at any given time. Turnout and response was positive.



# TASFAA Committee Reports

## Training

**Karen Long-Trail Chair - Texas Woman's University**  
**Rachael Fournier - University of Texas at Arlington**  
**David Orsag - University of Mary Hardin Baylor**  
**Angela Parkoff - Texas A&M**  
**Dennise Mendez - Texas A&M**  
**Danchees "D" Ingram - Tarrant County Junior College**  
**Kimberly Schwaeble - Rice University**  
**Julie Wittmis - Texas Woman's University**

The TASFAA Training Committee is honored to have successfully executed two training programs offered by the association: the Spring New Aid Officer's Workshop and the Fall ABC Workshop, for both new and seasoned financial aid professionals. One of the most exciting endeavors the committee achieved was moving the New Aid Officer's Workshop to Houston from the traditional Dallas/Fort Worth location. The workshop was hosted at the Houston Marriott West Loop by the Galleria, May 22-24th, and successfully trained seventy-seven new financial aid professionals. The Houston location was a significant success and the 2018 New Aid Officer's Workshop will be hosted again in Houston.

The New Aid Officer's theme name was "Out of This World", to keep in step with the spirit of Houston and the Space Program. True to our theme, the committee hosted a space costume party with the TASFAA Board, and even Marvin the Martian joined the event to dine on Mac and Cheese and partake of the S'mores buffet.

We were honored to include a guest speaker, Dr. Louis Carfagno, who has been responsible for training astronauts and implementing space team-building programs for NASA. Dr. Carfagno was delighted to be invited to the Houston New Aid Officer's Workshop and tailored his presentation on the importance of team-building and customer service for the financial aid professional. In addition, our second guest speaker was TWU University Registrar, Robert Lothringer, who customized a FERPA presentation geared towards the Financial Aid Professional.

The nuts and bolts of the NAOW education featured content areas such as Professional Judgment, Packaging, Need Analysis, Verification, Satisfactory Academic Progress, the History of Financial Aid, Return of Title IV Funds, and Income-Driven Repayment Plans. In addition, new curriculum subjects were introduced which were Loans, Financial Literacy, an overview of Enrollment Services and Understanding and Improving Communication (D.O.P.E. Training). The Texas Higher Education Board presented State Programs and Updates, and Training Officers from the Department of Education covered the topics of Pell and Campus-Based Programs.

The Training Committee boasts the proud distinction of 102 combined years of higher education experience in various capacities. In addition, this talented group of professionals holds a combined total of twenty-five NASFAA national credentials that have demonstrated mastery of an array of financial aid subjects. The Training Team also participated in team developments endeavors, such as participating in the Webinar provided by Great Lakes, "— It's Not All in the Delivery: Presenting Your Presentations" in an effort to continually improve presentation and teaching methods.

This past year the Training Committee developed and implemented numerous new and creative ideas. One of the key areas of emphasis was marketing the importance of the TASFAA Training services to the Higher Education Community, by developing a Directors' Information letter. In addition, a professional bio was created to provide visibility to each presenter's areas of teaching expertise, and basic information. With limited budgets, we wanted to provide visibility and return on investment to justify a direct savings cost for developing training programs for financial aid professionals. In addition, we utilized new technology platforms for marketing.

This fall the ABC Workshop was coordinated with the TASFAA Fall Conference and 50th Anniversary event in San Antonio, Texas on October 8th and 9th in a rigorous day and a half curriculum. The



# TASFAA Committee Reports

## Training (cont'd)

basics were covered in a day and a half of a rigorous schedule. The fall ABC Workshop theme was keeping in step with fifty years, named "Through the Ages." Fifty-four new financial aid administrators were trained at the ABC workshop.

It is with great pleasure that all nine committee members have informed me that they will remain on the committee for the 2018 NAOW and ABC events. This extraordinary team will be able to explore new roles on this committee, continue with professional development, and implement fresh and creative ideas.

Future 2018 goals are to encourage the Mentor and Protégé Programs to train new committee

members, continue adding guest speakers that cover additional areas of Enrollment Services, and develop a Director's Letter to obtain their feedback on our workshops.

I look forward to serving another year as Chair for the 2018 TASFAA Training Committee. In addition, I am pleased to announce Ms. Rachael Fournier is serving as Co-Chair.

It's been an honor to have a talented, motivated, trained committee that will meet the needs of the TASFAA organization, the institutions, and professionally grow, develop new skills, and teach future financial aid officers timely, effective and relevant information.





# TASFAA Committee Reports

## Web Services

Alexandra Hellinger, Chair – Alamo Colleges District  
 Alan Ahmad, Board Liaison – Alamo Colleges District  
 John Sculley – Texas State University

### GOALS

The Web Services Committee works with ATAC Corporation to provide web-based assistance and information to the TASFAA community.

### 2016-2017 PROJECTS

Added birth month/day to member profile for automated birthday greetings from BOD  
 Legislative Resources section added to Member Center  
 Hurricane Harvey Support Page created  
 Templates and forms: Voting, Scholarship, Regional Training, Conference, ABC, NAOW, Volunteer, Award Nomination, Corporate Sponsorship  
 Committee Requests/Document Updates

### TASFAA.ORG

Summary of data extracted from activity on all pages of the Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators website, [www.tasfaa.org](http://www.tasfaa.org), for FY 2017:

Job Posts	Listserv Posts	# Hits	# Page Views	# Unique Visitors	# Visits	Institutional Members	Individual Members
135	305	1,059,287	902,689	54,325	296,423	163	2147

## SWASFAA Update

SWASFAA held it's 2016 conference in Oklahoma City. There were 192 attendees for the conference, 57 for Boot Camp and 19 for Mid-Level Training. SWASFAA President for 2017 is Denise Welch, Past-President is Janell Valdez and President-Elect is Shannon Crossland.

Throughout the year, the board discussed how to make SWASFAA more meaningful and relevant for our members across the 5 states we served. A license was purchased to make webinars easier to host with the hope of offering more online training opportunities. Discussions will continue into the future about these topics and in November of 2017, a survey was sent to the membership to gain feedback.

We are greatly anticipating our Fall Conference in Grapevine, Texas. It's been a pleasure serving Texas as delegate to the SWASFAA board for these past two years.

Erika Cox  
 SWASFAA Texas Delegate



## The Senate of The State of Texas

### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 658

WHEREAS, The Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2017; and

WHEREAS, The association was founded in 1967 to advance a profession dedicated to providing students with the resources and information necessary to access higher education opportunities; membership has grown to more than 2,000 Texans and also includes individuals in several other states; and

WHEREAS, Among the initiatives the association has created to increase awareness of student financial aid options and financing programs are Financial Aid Awareness Week, the Middle School Project, and high school counselor training activities; in addition, the association assists in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, this organization has also coordinated with other entities committed to helping students pursue their dreams; in the late 1990s, it worked with Representative Henry Cuellar and with other groups to establish the Toward Excellence, Access, and Success Grant program, or TEXAS Grant, the first statewide, need-based grant program for students attending Texas public postsecondary institutions; and

WHEREAS, The organization engages in advocacy at the state and federal levels, proposing refinements to current aid programs and suggesting other measures to improve the affordability of postsecondary education; moreover, it promotes administrative efficiency, program integrity and quality, and the simplification of applications, disbursements, and



S.R. No. 658

collections; and

WHEREAS, Through its efforts to make postsecondary education more accessible and affordable, the Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators is making a positive difference in the lives of countless Texans and strengthening the workforce that is key to the prosperity of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby congratulate the Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators on its 50th anniversary and extend to its members sincere best wishes for continued success in their vital endeavors; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Watson

Don Petuch  
President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the  
above Resolution was adopted by  
the Senate on April 24, 2017.

Patsey Spaul  
Secretary of the Senate

KIRK WATSON  
Member, Texas Senate



# 2017 TASFAA Annual Report



*The TASFAA Annual Report was created by the  
Web Services Committee*