



# TASFAA Fall Conference

## Sessions Summary & Agenda Outline

### Tentative Agenda:

Wednesday October 8 <sup>th</sup>	
7 a.m.	Conference Registration Open
8 a.m.	NASFAA U Credentialing Packaging & Notification of Awards Professional Judgment Return of Title IV Funds
1 p.m.	Conference Begins
1:30 p.m.	Keynote Speaker – Justin Draeger
3 p.m.	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Update
5 p.m.	Interest Session 1
6 p.m.	Dinner on Your Own

Thursday October 9 <sup>th</sup>	
6 a.m.	Walk the Walk - 5K Fun Run/Walk
7 a.m.	Networking Breakfast
8 a.m.	Conference Registration Open
8:30 a.m.	Interest Session 2
10 a.m.	Interest Session 3
11:30 a.m.	Interest Session 4
12:30 p.m.	Lunch, TASFAA Annual Business Meeting & Awards
2 p.m.	Interest Session 5
3:30 p.m.	Interest Session 6
5 p.m.	Networking Happy Hour
6 p.m.	Dinner on Your Own

Friday October 10 <sup>th</sup>	
7 a.m.	Networking Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	NASFAA Update – Melanie Storey
9:30 a.m.	Federal Update
11 a.m.	SWASFAA Update
11:30 a.m.	Passing of the Gavel, Closing Remarks

## Tentative Sessions:

Interest Session 1	
Title:	Presenter:
How to Create Your Own Podcast	Jack Falks & Diana Daniels (Colleging)
The Texas Association of Collegiate Financial Education Professionals (TACFEP) Information Session	Dischunara Brown (TACFEP)
R2T4 – Don't Panic!	Donna Watson (Texas A&M University)
Teach what you know, Grow who you have: Developing People and Elevating Financial Aid	Zachary Solano & Stephanie Morin (Del Mar College)
From the Justice System to the Financial Aid Office: Supporting Formerly Incarcerated Students on the Path to Completion	Melanie Prudhomme (Prairie View A&M University)

Interest Session 2	
Title:	Presenter:
Affordability by Design: Rebuilding Trust Through Student-Centered Pricing	Justin Draeger (Strada Education)
One Year In: Lessons from the Return to Student Loan Repayment	Christopher Campbell (Inceptia)
Thrive Through Change & Build Resilient Teams	Angela Boone (Oracle)
Empowering Financial Aid Offices with AI: Practical Applications of Copilot and ChatGPT	Maria Serna (University of Texas)
Achieving a Better Student Experience Through Teamwork and Innovation	Rolph Zehntner (The University of Texas at El Paso)

Interest Session 3	
Title:	Presenter:
THECB Interest Session	Leah Smalley (THECB), DeCha (THECB)
Return to Repayment	Alexandria Miller & Will Shaffner (MOHELA)
Enhancing Access: Working with Students with Disabilities in Financial Aid	Sarah Nguyen (University of Texas at San Antonio)
NCAA Financial Aid Hot Topics - Waivers, Changes to Bylaw 15 and the impact on student aid and eligibility, leveraging priority aid (Institutional/State Aid)	Tola Olushola (University of Houston)
Sharing Smart: Navigating Data Sharing Guidelines in Financial Aid	Sarah Gordon (Texas A&M University)/ Erika Cox (University of Texas at San Antonio)

<b>Interest Session 4</b>	
Title:	Presenter:
Creating a Mentally Healthy Financial Aid Office Environment	Lou Murray (Earnest)
Strengthening Collaboration Between Recruitment and Financial Aid to Increase FAFSA Submissions	Michael Garza & Eric Cooper (University of Texas at San Antonio)
From Story to Strategy: Navigating the Policy Process Through Advocacy	Melanie Storey (NASFAA)
Creating a Financial Aid Communication Blueprint	Zarita Barton (Lone Star College)
Navigating Career Development in Financial Aid: Pathways and Insights	Maria Serna (University of Texas)

<b>Interest Session 5</b>	
Title:	Presenter:
Building a Strong Financial Aid Team and Succession Planning	Elizabeth Amador (SWASFAA)
Foundations & Futures: Bridging the Gap - Intergenerational Collaboration in Financial Aid Offices Post-COVID	Arbeena Thapa (University of Texas at San Antonio)
Cultural Change through CPOS	Silvia Pena & Jennifer Miller (University of Texas at El Paso)
Managing Stress and Burnout in Financial Aid - The Manager's Edition	Teresa Washburn (Houston Community College)
Dungeons, Dragons, and Disbursements	Felipe Romero (University of Houston at Clear Lake) & Chantelle Isaacs (Ascent)

<b>Interest Session 6</b>	
Title:	Presenter:
Fueling your Enrollment Objectives: The Value of Transparency & Simplicity in Connecting with Today's Students	Sergio Gonzalez (Sallie Mae)
Five Pieces of Advice from Marcus Aurelius: For Higher Education Professionals	Melinda Estrada (University of Texas at San Antonio)
SAP Appeals 101: Empowering Success, One Appeal at a Time	Janice Garza & Alberto Cuevas (Lone Star College)
Training and Onboarding Financial Aid Staff	Arianna Gray (Collin College)
Financing the Future: Supporting Veteran Students and Families through Financial Aid, VA Benefits, and Campus Resources	Abigail Garcia & Kyra Stuckmeyer (Southern Methodist University)