

# 2016 TASEFAA Annual Report

*Financial Aid*  
**ALL★STARS**

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*Hit it Out of the Park!*

Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators



# TASF<sup>AA</sup> Leadership

## President's Letter

by Shannon L. Crossland

TASF<sup>AA</sup> Friends,

*"Keep all special thoughts and memories for lifetimes to come. Share these keepsakes with others to inspire hope and build from the past, which can bridge to the future."* ~ Mattie Stepanek

Throughout 2015-16, TASF<sup>AA</sup> made strategic steps towards goals presented during the annual business meeting in October of 2015:

- The TASF<sup>AA</sup> board represented at high school events, regional trainings, and other TASF<sup>AA</sup> events.
- The TASF<sup>AA</sup> Early Awareness committee is currently shifting the schedule for High School Counselor Workshops for Early FAFSA education opportunities.
- TASF<sup>AA</sup> is in the process of collaborating with SWASF<sup>AA</sup> for NASF<sup>AA</sup> credential course offerings.
- The TASF<sup>AA</sup> LinkedIn platform opened an avenue for TASF<sup>AA</sup> vendors to keep well-informed and interact with TASF<sup>AA</sup> initiatives and colleagues.
- The TASF<sup>AA</sup> blog, The TASF<sup>AA</sup> Star, launched in an effort for membership to share best practices and communicate among colleagues.
- TASF<sup>AA</sup> made an effort to continue communication with former TASF<sup>AA</sup> Presidents and retirees as we prepare for our 50th anniversary next year.
- TASF<sup>AA</sup> placed all volunteers to a committee.
- "TASF<sup>AA</sup> Friends" – a timely letter from the TASF<sup>AA</sup> President to membership was a huge success. Throughout the year, membership was updated on activities of the board, upcoming events, and training notes. "TASF<sup>AA</sup> Friends" incorporated the history of TASF<sup>AA</sup>, why it was formed, TASF<sup>AA</sup>'s core values and TASF<sup>AA</sup>'s mission and vision as we celebrate 50 years in 2017. "TASF<sup>AA</sup> Friends" also encouraged and informed membership of upcoming events within the state, region and nation.
- TASF<sup>AA</sup>'s initiative and invitation for Trailblazer and Star award recipients to TASF<sup>AA</sup> Board events proved successful. Award winners shadowed President during meetings to learn meeting protocol and observe the use of Roberts Rules of Order for efficient and effective meeting action items. Award winners were also included in all communication with the Board, and both award winners attended a professional development event.



TASF<sup>AA</sup> friends, thank you very much! It has truly been an honor to represent each of you. Thank you all for believing in the value of TASF<sup>AA</sup>.

Sincerely,

Shannon L. Crossland

2015-16 TASF<sup>AA</sup> President

Texas Tech University



# Officers 2015-2016

## President

Shannon L. Crossland, Texas Tech University

## Vice President

Carolyn Jones, Collin County Community College

## President Elect

Alan Ahmad, Alamo Community College

## Past President

Anne E. Walker, Rice University

## Treasurer

Fabian Vasquez, Texas Tech University HSC

## Secretary/Historian

Devon Wiggins, Tyler Junior College

## Board Members

Eric Cooper, Texas A&M University San Antonio

Delisa Falks, Texas A&M University

Raul Lerma, El Paso Community College

Christopher Murr, Texas State University

Donnie Purvis, Weatherford College

Karen Long-Trail, Texas Woman's University

Denise Welch, Panola College



# 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 A Barcenas - El Paso Community College  
Demetrice Dent - University of Houston  
Shelley Franks - Tyler Junior College  
Maurice French - Dallas County Community College District  
Jael E. Garcia - University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley  
Sefra M Lopez - Texas A&M University  
Carolyn R Mallory - University of Houston – Victoria  
Bridget N Moore - Hardin-Simmons University  
Norma A Urias - El Paso Community College  
Casey L Wells - Tyler Junior College  
Angelika Williams - Texas State University  
Chris Woodyard - University of Texas – Arlington

Accomplishments of the Awards and Scholarships Committee for 2015-2016:

- Moved the Mack C. Adams scholarship application to an on-line form
- Decided to award some of the Mack C. Adams scholarships for the ABC workshop associated with the fall conference in addition to the New Aid Officers Workshop
- Decided to increase the amount of the scholarship associated with the New Aid Officers Workshop in 2017 from \$200 to \$375 to help cover the cost of the registration fee
- Reviewed applications and awarded 5 scholarships for the New Aid Officers Workshop in May 2016
- Reviewed applications and awarded 6 scholarships for the ABC Workshop in October 2016
- Solicited nominations for the Financial Aid STAR and Hall of Fame Awards
  - Selected Moises Villalpando – University of Houston for the Financial Aid STAR Award
  - TASFAA Board selected Dede Gonzales – Texas State University for the TASFAA Trailblazer award.
  - Recommended Linda Gonzalez-Hensgen – El Paso Community College for the Hall of Fame – Service to TASFAA
  - Recommended George Torres – TG for the Hall of Fame – Friends of TASFAA
- Worked with TASFAA president to attempt to have members update their information in the membership database. This will help the committee determine when members should receive service pins.
- Determined service pin recipients for 2016. Pins will be given out at the fall conference for those in attendance. Remaining pins will be mailed in October.

## Years of Service Award Winners

### 45 Years of Service

James Todd Lee College

### 40 Years of Service

Lesa Moller Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

### 35 Years of Service

Paul Blake Texas Tech University  
Nancy Briseno Del Mar College  
Colleen Franklin Southern Methodist University  
Mary Gallegos-Adams Texas State Technical College  
Briget Jans University of Houston  
Phyllis Ocheltree Lone Star College North Harris  
Elena Olivier San Jacinto College  
Marie Saldana Texas A&M University- San Antonio  
Arnold Trejo University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley  
Ron Williams University of Texas - El Paso

### 30 Years of Service

Elizabeth Alvarado Alamo CCD  
Wilbert Brown Dallas County Community College District  
Melinda Cullins Sul Ross State University  
William Delgado Alamo CCD  
Ed Ephlin Navarro College  
Esmeralda Flores Our Lady of the Lake University  
Rinn Harper Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
Clara Hernandez University of Texas - Austin  
Kara Hipchen Lone Star College North Harris  
Russell Jeffrey Concordia University Texas  
Pamela Lucas Dallas County Community College District  
Angie McLeroy Trinity Valley Community College  
Scott A. Moore University of Houston  
Julia Padgett College Board (The)  
Kathy Pennartz-Browning Midwestern State University  
Annabelle Smith Central Texas College  
Diane Todd Sprague University of Texas - Austin  
Jose Torres University of Texas - El Paso  
Debra Urias Brazos Group  
John Wells Dallas County Community College District  
Grace Zapata Alamo CCD

### 25 Years of Service

Sandie Adams Southwestern Adventist University  
Araceli Alvarez University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston  
Cora Battle University of Houston - Downtown  
Wally Boudet cuLearn  
Kim Canady University of Texas - San Antonio  
Miguel Carranza South Texas College  
Dana Cazares Texas A&M University  
Glenn Chance College Ave Student Loans  
Raina Chezem ELM Resources



# TASFAA Committee Reports

## Years of Service Award Winners (cont'd)

Tillie Flores	Texas State Technical College
Glendi Gaddis	Trinity University
Terry Kelley	Ocean Corporation (The)
Rodney Landrum	Discover Student Loans
Roy Lopez	Texas A&M University
Charles Puls	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Nancy Reid	University of Texas - Arlington
Richard Sapp	TG
Bonnie Trevino	Texas Lutheran University
Debra Wilkison	Dallas County Community College District
Judith Witherspoon	Edfinancial Services
Thomas Young	East Texas Baptist University

### 20 Years of Service

Lorraine Ast	Southwestern Assemblies of God University
Mary Banos	Collin County Community College
Irish Beason	Stephen F. Austin State University
Cindy Best	Wells Fargo Education Financial Services
Melissa Elliott	Vernon College
Elsa Garcia	Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi
Denise Hall	University of Houston
Cara Horcica	Texas A&M University
Renee Jones	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Laura Kowalski	TG
Gary Lamm	University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
Carolyn Mallory	University of Houston - Victoria
Cynthia Marrs	TG
Lynda McKendree	University of St. Thomas
Bill McMullen	Tarrant County College
Anne Miller	Baylor University
Christopher Murr, Ph.D.	Texas State University
Lou Murray	Nelnet
Rita Pando	El Paso Community College
Mayra Payan	University of Texas - Arlington
Kay Pearson	University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
Tracie Perez	Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi
Mandy Rangel	Rice University
Letty Reyes	Texas State University
Mary Roffino	University of Texas - Dallas
Susan Russell	Clarendon College
Julie Shaddox	Texas A&M University
Sharmel Taft	Dallas County Community College District
Lacey Thompson	University of North Texas
Debbie Threadgill	Baylor University
Roy Tuberville	El Paso Community College
Cynthia Tudor	Baylor University
Sharla Walker	Southern Methodist University
Denise Welch	Panola College
Gina Wesolowski	Everest College

### 15 Years of Service

LaChunda Armstead	Texas Southern University
Jeanne Auguste	Dallas County Community College District



Christina Brown	Houston Community College System
Johnny Brown	Texas Tech University
Toni Bryant	Schreiner University
Carey Burling	San Jacinto College
Randolph Byrd	Texas Southern University
Ferrisa Childs	Howard Payne University
Terri Colley	Sam Houston State University
Janet Daniels	University of Texas - San Antonio
Brad Davis	Texas Christian University
Yvonne Forey	Alamo CCD
David Fountain	Texas A&M University
Juan Galvan	South Texas College
Adeline Garza	Wharton County Junior College
Bridgette Ingram	Texas A&M University
Rodney Jackson	Houston Community College System
Yennie Jimenez	University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Jackie Kelley	Kilgore College
Samreen Khurram	Lone Star College North Harris
Nacole Lacey	Dallas County Community College District
Dana Langley	Baylor University
Scott Lapinski	University of Texas - Tyler
Detra Levice	College of the Mainland
Senta Macaraeg	University of North Texas
Emma Magana	Texas A&M University-San Antonio
Elizabeth Mendoza	Texas Woman's University



# TASFAA Committee Reports

## Years of Service Award Winners (cont'd)

Stephanie Nonnemacher	Southern Methodist University	Lauri Jensen	Brazosport College
Marcia Olvera	University of Texas - El Paso	Clifton Jones	Texas A&M University - Central Texas
Elias Ozuna	University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley	Byron Kerr	Texas State University
Kasandra Phillips	Texas A&M University	Jessica Latino	Lamar University
Kelly Prater	Amarillo College	Jessica Latino	Lamar University
Stacey Prieto	San Jacinto College	Stephanie Lopez	Texas State University
Mary Ann Reed	Amarillo College	Jessica Martinez	University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley
Elvira Rodriguez	University of Houston - Downtown		University
Jonathan Rodriguez	University of Texas - Arlington	Salomon Medina	Rice University
Kathryn Sanchez	University of Texas - San Antonio	Eva Montecinos	University of Texas - San Antonio
Ingeborg Schey	Temple College	Kimberly Nettles	Sam Houston State University
Joanna Simmons	San Jacinto College	David Orsag	University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
James Smith	Lone Star College North Harris	Veronica Ortega	Kaplan College - McAllen
Lorna Smith	Lubbock Christian University	Christina Pikla	Trinity University
Mary Smyser	Kilgore College	Alan Pixley	Collin County Community College
Joel Solis	Texas A&M University	Mosadi Porter	Texas A&M University
Mona Trent	Lamar University	Stephanie Portillo	Austin Community College
Nora Uribe	Alamo CCD	Kathleen Pustejovsky	Hill College
Fabian Vasquez	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	Laura Ringo	Sam Houston State University
		Marlo Rivera	University of Houston
Vanessa Verstuyft	Austin Community College	Joe Rodriguez	Tarrant County College
Erika Williams	Del Mar College	Lazaro Rodriguez	Trinity University
Robert Young	Tarrant County College	Joseph Ruiz	Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi

### 10 Years of Service

Iris Alejandro	Rice University	Bridget Shehan	UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth
Sandra Alexander	Howard Payne University	Debra Stamper	Lone Star College North Harris
Virginia Arredondo	Sul Ross State University	Margarita Vasquez	Texas A&M University- San Antonio
Elizabeth Berry	University of Houston	Rebecca Villanueva	Howard College
Chrisana Black	University of North Texas	Peggy Watts	Temple College
Connie Brown	Texas Tech University	Robert Westrick	TG
Marissa Burill	Austin Community College	Angelika Williams	Texas State University
Karin Byrd	ECMC	Kristi Wolfe	UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth
Deborah Capehart	Texas A&M University - Commerce	Glennis Young	Dallas County Community College District
Aurora Castillo	University of Texas - San Antonio	Stanja Zylowski	North Central Texas College
Angel Cavazos	St. Mary's University		
Danielle Champagne	University of North Texas		
Tammy Coleman	Wayland Baptist University		
Trudy Conner	Texas Christian University		
Joy Connors	Amarillo College		
Braulio Contreras	University of Texas - San Antonio		
Eric Cooper	Texas A&M University- San Antonio		
Jimmy Criswell	Dallas Baptist University		
Shannon Crossland	Texas Tech University		
Julia Dean	University of Houston - Clear Lake		
Nestor Esquivel	University of Texas - San Antonio		
Anita Ford	Texas State University		
Yesenia Garcia	South Texas College		
Connie Gardner	South Plains College		
Alejandra Gonzalez	University of Texas - San Antonio		
Ann Hall	Stephen F. Austin State University		
Franklin Haskins	North Central Texas College		
Erika Jaquez	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center		

## Constitution and Bylaws

**Shannon Crossland - Texas Tech University, Chair**  
**Angela K Parkoff - Texas A&M University, Vice Chair**  
**Toni L Bryant - Schreiner University**  
**Delisa Falks - Texas A&M University**  
**Tomas Garza - University of Texas - Austin**  
**Alexandra Hellinger - Alamo CCD**  
**Rebecca Morkovsky - Texas State University**  
**Rebekah Sepulveda - University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley**  
**Diane Todd Sprague - University of Texas - Austin**

The TASFAA Policies and Procedures manual was updated as necessary for the needs of the Association.



# TASFAA Committee Reports

## Fall Conference

Taryn Anderson - University of Dallas, Co-Chair  
Chrisana Black - University of North Texas, Co-Chair  
Erika Cox, Vice-Chair - University of Texas - San Antonio,  
Vice-Chair  
Sarah Webb, Vice-Chair - University of Texas - San  
Antonio, Vice-Chair  
Shannon Crossland – Texas Tech University, Board Liaison

### Members:

L. Theresa Decker - Alamo CCD  
Jael Garcia - University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley  
Molly Garrett - Tyler Junior College  
Sergio Gonzalez - Sallie Mae  
L. Frank Gutierrez - Austin Community College  
Albert Hernandez - Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi  
Cecelia Jones - Wiley College  
Susan Karlsen - Collin County Community College  
Byron Kerr - Texas State University  
Elvia Leija - Alamo CCD  
Marisela Maldonado - Rice University  
Diana Martinez - University of Texas - San Antonio  
Christina Pikla - Trinity University  
Alan Pixley - Collin County Community College  
Janine Salas - Texas Tech University  
Amanda Smith - Clarendon College  
Jennifer Steed - Austin College  
Diane Todd Sprague - University of Texas - Austin  
Traci Williamson - Alamo CCD  
Dustin Zimmerman - Collin County Community College

This year, the Texas financial aid community gathered in Frisco, Texas for its 2016 TASFAA Conference “Hit it out of the Park!” The three day conference (four day including ABC Workshop) was jam-packed with updates, panel discussions, presentations, and a Red Carpet “Thank You TASFAA” reception that celebrated our TASFAA members and looked back over the last 50 years of accomplishments and achievements. In attendance this year, were 382 at the Fall Conference and 48 at the ABC Conference.

This year’s TASFAA Conferenced offered its members:

- **Preconference Sessions:** The option to attend free preconference sessions on ICUT Meeting, Prior, Prior Year Panel and Changes to SFA Audits.
- **TASFAA Update:** Shannon Crossland, TTU, TASFAA President, provided TASFAA updates and recognized TASFAA past presidents and TASFAA All Stars at the Red Carpet “Thank You TASFAA” Reception.
- **SWASFAA Update:** Janell Valdez, UNM, SWASFAA president provided the SWASFAA updates.
- **NASFAA Update:** Our very own Lisa Blazer, UTSA, NASFAA Chair, presented a session and gave the NASFAA update.
- **State Update:** THECB held a Q&A closing session led by Charles Puls and Leah Smalley presented sessions for

private and public schools and answered questions at the “Ask the State” table.

- **Federal Update:** U.S. Department of Education (ED) was well represented at the conference.
  - For the first time, Jeff Baker attended TASFAA’s Conference to give the federal update in person to the TASFAA members.
  - ED’s Dallas Regional Office, Kevin Campbell presented at the ABC Workshop.
  - Rick Renshaw presented sessions and answered questions at the “Ask the Fed” table.
- **Vendor and Resource Center:**
  - Exhibitor registration increased from last year’s 22 to 27 vendors this year.
  - “Ask a Fed” table
  - “Ask the State” table
- **Mack Adams Scholarship:** Starting this year, a portion of the exhibitor’s fees is allocated toward the Mack Adams Scholarship fund along with the proceeds from the 5K Fun Run/Walk making the total contribution \$3,525.
- **Charity Raffle and Teddy Bear Collection:** This year the proceeds from the raffle (\$1,129) and the 42 teddy bears collected will benefit the Children’s Advocacy Center of Collin County (CAC). The CAC’s mission is to provide children, who have been victimized by abuse or neglect, with a safe environment where they and their families can begin to heal.
- **Entertainment:**
  - Matt Jones, Keynote speaker, “Seven Continent Marathon Man” - working your way through adversity and developing real life success strategies
  - Dinner and movies/games/photo booth

The committee felt the conference was a great success both in terms of attendance and overall satisfaction ratings by survey. We would like to thank all of the presenters and vendors who did such a great job in sharing information. We would also like to thank the TASFAA board members’ support throughout the process. In addition, we would personally like to thank Shannon Crossland, for being a great president and supporting the conference committee’s ideas and changes. Most importantly, we would like to thank the conference committee members for their energy, creativity and hard work prior to the event and during the conference. They really made this conference special by pulling together and meeting high expectations with a smile and a spirit of unity.

We look forward with great anticipation to next year’s conference in San Antonio with Erika Cox and Sarah Webb, Co-Chairs, leading the Conference Committee. TASFAA will only continue to grow and build on the successes of each conference to keep the TASFAA members connected and up-to-date on regulations in this every changing world of financial aid.



# TASFAA Committee Reports

## Membership

- Donnie Purvis - Weatherford College, Chair**
- Amy Ahlas - Alamo CCD, Co-chair**
- Anne Walker - Rice University**
- Melet Leafgreen - University of Texas - Arlington**
- Denise Welch - Panola College**

Current membership paid as of September 15 is 167. We budgeted for 165 this year.

- New this year:
- Western Governors University - everywhere - Utah
  - Postlethwait & Netterville - Consultants - Houston, Tx
  - OneLogos - Austin, Tx
  - Culearn - Covington, LA - Wally Boudet

## Regional Training

- Heather Fountain - Texas A&M University, Chair**
- Laura Elizondo - Texas A&M International University**
- Michelle Enriquez - Citizens Bank**
- JoEllen Soucier - Houston Community College**
- Sharon Steele - Lee College**

TASFAA Regional Training in partnership with Texas Guarantee and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) conducted the FY 16 regional trainings. We welcomed new presenters from THECB and new committee members/presenters from TASFAA. This year we pushed back

the dates we provided these trainings to later in the Spring.

This year's topics included state and federal updates, information about income-driven repayment plans, resources for financial aid administrators, and a fun professional development topic. In addition we had group discussions regarding Early FAFSA.

Training was held at 5 sites that included: Houston, Dallas/Ft. Worth (2), Lubbock, and Austin. The Austin location was recorded again this year as it was last year. We did have some technical difficulties and some miscommunication regarding the link for participants. However, the link was made available after the presentation and the committee will discuss other options and ideas to ensure we do not encounter these issues next year. With the availability of the live recording in Austin and other reasons, we eliminated the south Houston and El Paso trainings.

Location Name	Event City	Event Total # Attended
Eastfield College - Dallas CCC	Mesquite	120
Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus	Fort Worth	74
Lone Star College - North Harris	Houston	54
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board also live stream/ recording	Austin	60
Lubbock Christian University	Lubbock	67



As planned, we altered the daily schedule to start later in the morning. This allowed us to eliminate breakfast and save money. Lunch was provided to training attendees and food costs were split with TG. TASFAA's food costs totaled \$2671.36. This is down \$2161.79 from last year. The cost for four TASFAA training committee members was approximately \$1900, which included hotel, flights, and meals.

Thank you to Michelle, Laura, JoEllen, and Sharon for volunteering their time to be part of the Regional Training committee this year. They were an invaluable part of the team and I couldn't have done it without them. As always, a BIG thanks goes out to Texas Guarantee for helping in the coordination and planning efforts as well as lending their expertise to help with presentations. Thank you to the THECB for their continued support in presenting state updates and for providing a location and the technology needed to record our Austin training session. In the new year, I will be stepping down as chair and JoEllen Soucier will be taking my place. I have no doubt that she will provide top notch training sessions to TASFAA members.



# TASFAA Committee Reports

## Site Selection

- Joseph Ruiz - Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi, Chair
- Raul Lerma - El Paso Community College, Board Liaison
- Deshondis Elliott - University of Houston, Member
- Michelle Enriquez - Citizens Bank, Member
- Tomas Garza - University of Texas - Austin, Member
- Donna King - Grayson County College, Member
- Lou Murray - Nelnet, Member
- David Orsag - University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Member
- Christina Pikla - Trinity University, Member
- Rafael Villarreal - Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Member

This committee worked hard to search for locations that would best suit the needs of the membership. We looked for locations that were centrally located and easily accessible. I hope that the Board is pleased with our sections.



## Web Services

- Alex Hellinger - Alamo CCD, Chair
- Alan Ahmad - Alamo CCD, Past Chair,
- Caroline Hernandez - Austin Community College

### GOALS

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

### 2015-2016 PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

- Development and unveiling of NEW TASFAA website: Format, graphics, pages
- Development and unveiling of NEW TASFAA blog
- Templates and forms: Voting, Scholarship, Mentor/Protégé
- Committee Requests/Document Update

### 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 FY2016.

Job Posts	Listserv Posts	# Hits	# Unique Visitors	# Visits	Institutional Members	Individual Members
152	329	1,489,920	34,309	237,327	171	2042



# Updates from SWASF<sup>AA</sup>

This has been a busy and productive year for the Southwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SWASF<sup>AA</sup>). As Texas Delegate, I represent the state of Texas on the SWASF<sup>AA</sup> board. SWASF<sup>AA</sup> is composed of member institutions from Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. The mission of SWASF<sup>AA</sup> is to enhance the professional development of financial aid administrators. SWASF<sup>AA</sup> does this in a variety of ways including our annual conference, boot camp for new FAAs, best practice webinars and mid-level training for those who wish to attempt to test for a NASFAA credential.

Last year's conference was held at the beautiful Sandia Resort and Casino in Albuquerque, New Mexico and had 201 attendees. Sessions were hosted by schools, exhibitor partners, NASFAA and the Department of Education. Eighty-six new FAAs went through the Boot Camp for new members and 24 attended our Mid-Level preconference training that allowed participants to test for credentials in both verification and professional judgement.

Our initiative to provide training that appeals to mid-level staff that allows for testing for NASFAA credentials has been a top initiative for SWASF<sup>AA</sup> over the past 2 years. The longer mid-level training takes place in April and is an intensive training that could result in participants testing in up to 6 credential areas. This will continue to be a service that SWASF<sup>AA</sup> will provide its members.

Another area in which SWASF<sup>AA</sup> continues to grow is our best practice webinar series. Covering topics such as Satisfactory Academic Progress, Professional Judgements and Default Prevention, you get to hear from the day to day experts (other FAAs just like you) to learn ways to help you in the administration of your programs at your school.

Networking with others across the region exposes you to different ways to processing, awarding and looking at student issues. It's also a great way to see our beautiful region! This year's conference is in beautiful Oklahoma City and it promises to be a great time to network and learn from each other. We hope to see you at one of our events this year. In the meantime, we have an active blog [www.swasfaa.org/b](http://www.swasfaa.org/b) and you can also follow us on Twitter @swasfaa and Facebook /swasfaa.

Erika Cox  
Director, One Stop Enrollment Center  
The University of Texas at San Antonio



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The TASFAA Annual Report was created by the  
Web Services Committee

