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

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

Secretary/Historian
Devon Wiggins, Tyler Junior College

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
Katherne 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 Landwermeyer 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 Wambeganss Higher Education Servicing Corp / NTHEA
- Robert Merino San Jacinto College
TASFAA Committee Reports

Years of Service Pin Recipients (cont’d)

15 Years of Service

- Roshanna Mitchell, University of Houston - Downtown
- Sherry Schroeder, Aggieland Credit Union
- Stephen McDonald, Dallas County Community College District
- Terri Thompson, Weatherford College
- Victoria Chen, Texas Christian University
- Amy Downey, University of Texas - Austin
- Anabel Garcia, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi
- Andria Cox, University of Texas - San Antonio
- Angelica Smith, St. Mary’s University
- Barbara Arevalos, Alamo Colleges District
- Beverly Johnson, Texas College
- Brenda Thomas, LeTourneau University
- Bridget Ledesma, Texas Christian University
- Carrie-Jo Hillebrecht, Lone Star College North Harris
- Chloe Tran, University of Houston - Downtown
- Christine Bassett, University of Dallas
- Christopher Scott, TG
- Christy Noland, University of Texas - Austin
- Daniel Parham, Paris Junior College
- David Alejandro, South Texas College
- Dena Guzman-Torres, University of North Texas
- Diane Charles, University of North Texas
- Donna Lee, Stephen F. Austin State University
- Grace Steffey, Western Governors University
- Jaci Shovian, Paris Junior College
- Jacqueline Grayczyk, Collin County Community College
- Jennifer Evilsizer, Trinity Valley Community College
- Jennifer Lewis, Texas Woman’s University
- Joe Roof, National Student Clearinghouse
- Kendice Blazes, McLennan Community College
- Lashon Williams, University of Houston - Victoria
- Lucrecia Green, Dallas County Community College District
- Lynda Shipman, Weatherford College
- Maria Castillo-Medellin, Texas Southmost College
- Maria Naber, University of Texas - San Antonio
- Mary Escobar, Angelo State University
- Mary Gonzales, Sul Ross State University
- Melanie Jones, University of Texas - Tyler
- Monja Smith, Paris Junior College
- Nicole, MIAT College of Technology
- Nicole Richmond, University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley
- Nicole Luna, San Jacinto College
- Norma Aguilar, Texas A&M University
- Paul Schafer, Paris Junior College
- Paula White, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- Rafael Villarreal, Tarrant County College
- Renisha Woods, South Plains College
- Rhonda Bridges, Schreiner University
- Richard Bialek, University of North Texas
- Richard Eleazar, Collin County Community College
- Sergio Garcia, San Jacinto College
- Shari Corprew, University of Houston
- Sheree Smiling, University of Texas - Tyler
- Stephanie Martin, North Central Texas College
- Tara Cates, Texas Wesleyan University
- Teresa Tippens, Dallas County Community College District
- Valerie Bustillos, Tarrant County College
- Victoria Thomas, Houston Community College System
- Zanne Coon, University of Texas - Austin

10 Years of Service

- Abby Goynes, University of North Texas
- Adela Espinosa, Stephen F. Austin State University
- Alexandría Ramirez, Texas Christian University
- Alma Gomez, Texas Southmost College
- Amine Qourzal, Baylor University
- Abby Goynes, University of North Texas
- Adela Espinosa, Stephen F. Austin State University
- Alexandría Ramirez, Texas Christian University
- Alma Gomez, Texas Southmost College
- Amine Qourzal, 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

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
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.
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 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.
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, for FY 2017:

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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
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
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

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

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate
The TASFAA Annual Report was created by the Web Services Committee