

ILASFAA Conference Presenters

General Session- Federal Update

Presenter: Jeff Baker, Director, Policy Liaison & Implementation, Federal Student Aid,
US Department of Education

Jeff Baker has been a student aid professional for over 35 years, starting at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and then at San Francisco State University. For the past 15 years, Jeff has been at the US Department of Education, where he is currently the Director of the Policy Liaison and Implementation Staff for the Department of Education's Federal Student Aid office. In that capacity, he advises senior FSA management on all statutory, regulatory, and policy matters that relate to the Title IV federal student aid programs.

Two Pell Grants in One Award Year

Presenter: Jeff Baker, Director, Policy Liaison & Implementation, Federal Student Aid,
US Department of Education

Jeff Baker has been a student aid professional for over 35 years, starting at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and then at San Francisco State University. For the past 15 years, Jeff has been at the US Department of Education, where he is currently the Director of the Policy Liaison and Implementation Staff for the Department of Education's Federal Student Aid office. In that capacity, he advises senior FSA management on all statutory, regulatory, and policy matters that relate to the Title IV federal student aid programs.

Federal Methodology 101

Presenter: Scott Seibring, Director of Financial Aid, Illinois Wesleyan University

Scott has an undergraduate degree from Illinois Wesleyan University in Accounting Masters in Higher Education Counseling from Illinois State University and has 25 years of experience in higher education between Admissions and Financial Aid.

Loan Repayment – More Options

Presenters: Nancy Calvert, Director of Student Services, Southern Illinois University School
of Medicine

Donna Sobie, Director of Financial Aid, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

Nancy has been in financial aid since 1987. Until one month ago Nancy served as Director of Student Services at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. Nancy is an ILASFAA Past President and has been active with ILASFAA and other professional associations.

Donna Sobie has been the Director of Financial Aid at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine for the past 26 years. She has been involved with financial aid for 30 years. Donna is an ILASFAA Past President and has been active with ILASFAA and MASFAA for many years.

Institutional Price Calculator

Presenter: Dan Mann, Director of Student Financial Aid, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dan Mann is the Director of Student Financial Aid at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Prior to joining the University of Illinois team in November 2004, Dan served as Director of Financial Aid at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He has served in leadership roles at the national, regional and state levels and currently serves as a Commission Director for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA).

TEACH Grants

Presenter: Jamie Malone, Training Officer, US Department of Education

Jamie is a Training Officer in the U.S. Department of Education's Chicago Regional Office. She has worked for the U.S. Department of Education in Chicago since July 1990. Jamie started as Program Reviewer, a position she held for about six years, and then moved to her current job as Training Officer. Prior to joining the Department, Jamie worked in financial aid and accounting at a proprietary school for nine years.

College Access Challenge Grants One Year In

Presenters: Carl Comacho, Manager, ISACorps, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
Paula Carpenter, Director of Financial Aid and Veteran Services, Lake Land College
Christopher Hightower, ISACorps Member, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
Hillary VanDyke, ISACorps Member, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Carl is directly responsible for the day-to-day field activities of the ISACorps. Carl joined ISAC in the summer of 2009, after earning his Masters in Public Administration from the University of Illinois-Chicago with a focus in Public Management. Previous to working with ISAC, Carl worked with a variety of non-profit organizations and educational institutions to address inequities in public education.

Paula holds a bachelor's degree in business and a master's degree in business administration from Eastern Illinois University. She served in several positions in private industry before joining Lake Land College in 1993. Paula assumed the position of director of financial aid at Lake Land College in 1995.

Creating Meaningful Experiences for Students through Federal Work Study/America Reads

Presenters: Michelle Cornell, Coordinator of Loan Processing and Student Employment, Illinois State University

Ron Hoppe, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Michelle currently works as the Coordinator of Loan Processing and Student Employment at Illinois State University. She started her financial aid career as a FWS student at Danville Area Community College and then worked as a Financial Aid Advisor there for 8 years.

Ron Hoppe has been serving as a Program Coordinator for the America Reads/America Counts Program, since May 2009. Previously, he served the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as a student financial aid administrator. He is currently a member of the ILASFAA CAP committee and presented at the 2009 MASFAA conference.

FFELP to Direct Lending Conversion

Presenters: Tad Verdun, Associate Director, Loyola University
Sherry Cwirko, Financial Aid Counselor, DePaul University

Tad currently serves as the Associate Director for Compliance for Loyola University Chicago and has been at the University since 1997. He directs the loan activities at Loyola.

Sherry is a Financial Aid Counselor at DePaul University and manages the day-to-day operations of loans at DePaul.

Getting Involved/Creating Advocacy -- How to Track and Talk to State and Federal Government

Presenters: Katharine Gricevich, Director of Government Relations, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
Susan Fields, Governmental Relations Liaison, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Katharine is Director of Government Relations and legislative liaison for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. She previously worked as a legislative analyst for the Illinois General Assembly on education and local government issues.

Susan monitors and analyzes federal legislation and regulations for ISAC. She has also represented ISAC on a number of committees of the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP), and recently served as chairperson of the Common Manual Policy Committee.

ILASFAA Panel – 5/10/15+ Year Members Talk About How They Stay Motivated for the Profession

Presenters: Mary Brown, Financial Aid Advisor, University of Illinois Springfield
Jeanne Locarnini, Associate Director of Financial Aid, Loyola University Chicago
Jana Albrecht, Director of Financial Aid, Illinois State University

Mary began working at the University of Illinois at Springfield in 2004. She is also an active ILASFAA member, participating on the facilities committee and the nominations committee.

Jeanne started her financial aid career in 1999 as an Advisor at Loyola University Chicago. In 2006, she worked at DePaul University, as a financial aid counselor. In 2008, she returned to Loyola University Chicago and was recently promoted to Associate Director of Financial Assistance.

Jana spent 5 years at Millikin University as an Assistant Director of Financial Aid where she hand packaged every student. She started as an Assistant Director at Illinois State in 2000, moved to an Associate Director position in 2005 then to the Directors position in 2007.

Verification 101

Presenter: Bridget Curl, Associate Director of Program Administration and Compliance, Illinois State University

Bridget is currently the Associate Director of Program Administration and Compliance at ISU. Prior to that, she was the Assistant Director of Student Employment and Loans at ISU.

Data Collection/Surveys/Budgeting

Presenter: David Pardieck, Director of Financial Aid, Bradley University

David Pardieck has been administrating student financial assistance at Bradley University for over three decades. He began in 1975 as the university's student loan coordinator and in 1980 assumed the director's role. Since 1985 has held dual responsibilities as financial aid director and associate director of enrollment management. He regularly consults with financial aid, admissions, and enrollment management operations at independent colleges and universities across the country.

General Session -- State Update

Presenters: Andy Davis, Executive Director, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Chris Peterson, Chief Program Officer, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Katharine Gricevich, Director of Government Relations, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Andrew Davis is the Executive Director of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). He has directed this State of Illinois agency since January 1, 2007. Before coming to ISAC, Davis had a 25-year career trading financial instruments. Davis's interest and involvements were particularly focused on creating new markets, new instruments and new delivery systems. He served two terms as Vice-Chairman of the Chicago Stock Exchange. Previously Andrew Davis has served on the Executive Committee of The Civic Federation, a Chicago based taxpayer watchdog organization, Youth Guidance, a school based social work agency, as well as the Board of Trustees of Beloit College, which he chaired from 2000 until 2005. Andrew Davis received his BA in Economics from Beloit College in 1979.

Chris Peterson reached the 30-year mark in the financial aid profession in 2010 having started her career with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (Illinois State Scholarship Commission at the time) in 1980. Chris is currently the Chief Program Officer and oversees the operations of ISAC-administered programs including scholarship, grant, and the College Illinois! prepaid tuition programs, as well as, loan guaranty and default prevention counseling activities, program training and institutional compliance.

Katharine Gricevich is Director of Government Relations and legislative liaison for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. She previously worked as a legislative analyst for the Illinois General Assembly on education and local government issues.

Consideration for Direct Loan Business Practices -- Part 1

Presenter: Jamie Malone, Training Officer, US Department of Education

Jamie is a Training Officer in the U.S. Department of Education's Chicago Regional Office. She has worked for the U.S. Department of Education in Chicago since July 1990. Jamie started as Program Reviewer, a position she held for about six years, and then moved to her current job as Training Officer. Prior to joining the Department, Jamie worked in financial aid and accounting at a proprietary school for nine years.

Financial Aid Acronyms/Electronic Resources

Presenter: Kim Eck, Training Coordinator, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Kim is a Training Coordinator in the Program Services & Compliance Division at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission out of the Springfield office. Her main focus is to develop and provide training and support for ISAC's school partners on state and federal financial aid topics. Kim has been with ISAC since August 2001. Prior to that, she worked in the areas of marketing, communications and training for 12 years at a major life insurance company in Springfield.

Cost of Attendance/Packaging 101

Presenter: Karen Leveque, Associate Director, DePaul University

Karen began her financial aid career in 1989 with Robert Morris College where she worked for 17 years. She started her career as a Student Account Specialist and continued to grow professionally over the years to her final position as Director of Financial Aid, which she has held for 6 years before leaving in 2006. For a short time, she worked in the lending community and gained valuable knowledge and experience before joining DePaul University in the Fall of 2008, where she currently serves as a Sr. Associate Director of Financial Aid.

Everything You Wanted to Know About Regulations (But Were Afraid to Ask)

Presenter: Nancy Masten, Policy Supervisor, Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation

Nancy has been with Great Lakes since 2006. Her duties include interpreting and providing guidance to internal staff and Great Lakes school and lender partners on changes in statute, regulation, and other federal directives relative to the federal student loan programs.

Nancy has been working in the student loan arena for 20 years. Prior to coming to Great Lakes, Nancy held various positions with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission where she also was involved in tracking and providing guidance on student loan policy.

How to Help Borrowers Tackle Their New Challenges

Presenter: Rett Anderton, Default Aversion Consultant, Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation

Rett joined TG and works extensively with schools to promote TG's default aversion initiative including TG's Positive+Balance™ program. His previous experience includes serving as a Registrar at an allied health school and overseeing NCAA compliance in the financial aid office at Texas Tech University. Prior to joining TG, Rett managed the customer service team at Texas Tech. While at Texas Tech, Rett played a key role in creating the campus's default aversion program. This venture included forming a standing committee dedicated to promoting default aversion and increasing student loan awareness.

Birds of a Feather: Current Issues in Federal Work Study – An Interactive Discussion

Presenter: Michelle Cornell, Coordinator of Loan Processing and Student Employment, Illinois State University

Michelle started her financial aid career as a FWS student at Danville Area Community College in 1999, which led to a position as a Financial Aid Advisor at Danville Area Community College for 8 years. In 2008, she joined the financial aid office at Illinois State University as the Coordinator of Loan Processing and Student Employment.

Consideration for Direct Loan Business Practices - Part 2

Presenter: Jamie Malone, Training Officer, US Department of Education

Jamie is a Training Officer in the U.S. Department of Education's Chicago Regional Office. She has worked for the U.S. Department of Education in Chicago since July 1990. Jamie started as Program Reviewer, a position she held for about six years, and then moved to her current job as Training Officer. Prior to joining the Department, Jamie worked in financial aid and accounting at a proprietary school for nine years.

Exploring Financial Aid Implications of Changing Demographics

Presenters: Susan Kleemann, Director of Research, Planning & Policy Analysis, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Ellen Greenan, Senior Research Associate, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Susan has worked at ISAC for nine years, first as an analyst and, for the past six years, as director.

Ellen has worked at ISAC for nine years, for most of that time forecasting demand for our need-based programs, especially MAP.

Marketing Financial Literacy on Campus - Part 1

Presenter: Russell Goeltenbodt, Student Advocate/Financial Literacy Specialist, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Russ is the Student Advocate/ Financial Literacy Specialist for Illinois Student Assistance Commission. He has worked in higher education for over 20 years and has managed all areas of student financial services. As a Financial Literacy Specialist, Russ relies on his many years of financial aid experience to connect and communicate with students and families at high school assemblies, college fairs, libraries and other appropriate venues, including upcoming Money Smart Week events.

Professional Judgment 101

Presenter: Cheryl Schaffer, Director of Financial Aid, Heartland Community College

Cheryl started in the financial aid profession in 1985 working at Northern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Lawrence University (Wisconsin) and Heartland Community College.

Successful Loan Repayment for Students with Split-Servicing

Presenters: Dave Bowman, Regional Director, Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation

Nancy Masten, Policy Supervisor, Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation

Dave has been working in the Financial Aid industry since 1997. He first worked for Educaid supporting their Regional Account Executives. He was subsequently hired by U.S. Bank in 1999 and served as a Market Manager for Northern Ohio. He accepted a position with Great Lakes in 2002 and currently serves as Regional Director for schools in Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky.

Nancy has been with Great Lakes since 2006. Her duties include interpreting and providing guidance to internal staff and Great Lakes school and lender partners on changes in statute, regulation, and other federal directives relative to the federal student loan programs.

Nancy has been working in the student loan arena for 20 years. She is a current member of the Common Manual Policy Committee and is also co-chair of the NCHelp Program Regulations Committee. Prior to coming to Great Lakes, Nancy held various positions with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission where she also was involved in tracking and providing guidance on student loan policy.

The Obstacles of Higher Education from the Perspective of Financial Aid Professionals

Presenters: Janelle Wade, Assistant Director, Loyola University Chicago

Amy Moncher, Assistant Director, DePaul University

Janelle has worked in Financial Aid for over 4 years. She is currently an Assistant Director at Loyola University's Office of Student Financial Assistance where she has worked for one year. Janelle received her B.S. in Marketing from DePaul University and is currently pursuing her Master in Public Health at Benedictine University. She has been a member of the ILASFAA committee since 2006. Currently she is the 2009-2010 Chair of the Diversity Issues Committee for ILASFAA.

Amy is an Assistant Director and has been at DePaul for 12 years working with Athletes, Graduate students and other special populations and programs. She has been an ILASFAA member for over five years now serving on different committees and this year has become a part of both the Diversity and Programs Committee.

General Session -- Department of Education Regulatory Changes Update

Presenter: Jamie Malone, Training Officer, US Department of Education

Jamie is a Training Officer in the U.S. Department of Education's Chicago Regional Office. She has worked for the U.S. Department of Education in Chicago since July 1990. Jamie started as Program Reviewer, a position she held for about six years, and then moved to her current job as Training Officer. Prior to joining the Department, Jamie worked in financial aid and accounting at a proprietary school for nine years.

SCT Banner User's Group Meeting

Presenters: Bruce Foote, Executive Director, University of St. Francis

Bob Andersen, Associate Director of Financial Aid, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Bruce has been in the financial aid profession for 30 years and an SCT Banner user for 10 years. For three years he was a Senior Financial Aid Consultant with SCT Corporation.

Bob has worked with the SCT Banner computer system since 2001 at University of Illinois. He is currently Co-Chairing the SCT Banner User's Group.

PeopleSoft User's Group Meeting

Presenter: Eric Weems, Director of Financial Aid, Loyola University Chicago

Eric has been the Director at Loyola for 12 years and has been a financial aid professional for 21 years. Prior to Loyola University Chicago, Eric worked at SIU-Carbondale, Illinois State and at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. He has been the Financial Aid functional leader since implementing PeopleSoft in 2004-2005.

PowerFAIDS User's Group Meeting

Presenter: Vicki Obermann, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, McKendree University

Vicki Obermann has been a financial aid professional for 16 years. She currently serves as an advisor The College Boards PowerFAIDS division.

Datatel User's Group Meeting

Presenter: Mark Holysz, Director of Financial Aid, College of DuPage

Mark has been in the financial aid profession for 34 years and has worked in various capacities with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and various computer systems. Mark has just transitioned to Datatel at College of DuPage.

Generating Funding Opportunities by Diversifying your Campus!

Presenter: Orlando Espinosa, Region Executive, 2Futuro (USAF)

Orlando Espinosa was part of The Sallie Mae Fund's Latino-focused higher education outreach initiatives since The Fund's initial research announcement. As a leadership advisor for ASPIRA of Florida, Inc., a Latino community-based youth organization, he has counseled individuals and groups on education, presented to public and private business organizations, and traveled nationally to conduct workshops on college admissions and cultural sensitivity.

Satisfactory Academic Progress 101

Presenter: Pam Lytel, Assistant Director, Parkland College

Pam is an Assistant Director of Financial Aid and Veteran Services at Parkland. She has worked in the Financial Aid Office for 18 years. Pam is serving as co-chair of the Training and Professional Development Committee 2009 – 2010 and was elected as Southern Regional Coordinator 2010 - 2011.

Veteran Programs and Benefits

Presenters: Kim Eck, Training Coordinator, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Mike Rann, Veterans Coordinator, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

Kim is a Training Coordinator in the Program Services & Compliance Division at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. Kim works out of the Springfield office. Her main focus is to develop and provide training and support for ISAC's school partners on state and federal financial aid topics. Kim has been with ISAC since August 2001. Prior to that, she worked in the areas of marketing, communications and training for 12 years at a major life insurance company in Springfield.

Mike has been at Southern Illinois University – Carbondale for 20 years, and has served as their Veteran Certifying Official for the last 5 years. He is responsible for the certification of federal student veteran programs, as well as overseeing administration of the state military programs. Mike is also responsible for calculating and returning Title IV funds.

Ask The Director

Presenters: Paula Luff, Assistant Vice President, DePaul University

Dan Mann, Director of Student Financial Aid, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Jerry Joseph, Financial Assistance Director, University of Illinois Springfield

Tim Wendt, Director, Financial Aid and Veteran Services, Parkland College

Paula Luff is currently the Associate Vice President for Financial Aid at DePaul University. She has over twenty years of experience in financial aid and has held positions at a variety of colleges and universities, including Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Illinois at Chicago and Loyola University Chicago. Paula has been active in ILASFAA for many years and will complete her duties as Past President at the 2010 ILASFAA Conference.

Dan Mann is the Director of Student Financial Aid at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Prior to joining the University of Illinois team in November 2004, Dan served as Director of Financial Aid at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He has served in leadership roles at the national, regional and state levels and currently serves as a Commission Director for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA).

Jerry began in financial aid in 1987 as a graduate assistant in the systems area at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC). In 1991, he went to work for the University of Missouri-St Louis starting out as the Assistant Director-Systems Operations and eventually being promoted to Associate Director in 1996. Jerry assumed the present position as Director of Financial Assistance at the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) in 1999.

Tim Wendt is the Director at Parkland College Office of Financial Aid and Veteran Services. He has been the co-chair of the ILASFAA Electronic Communications Committee since 2007 and has been an ILASFAA member since 2002. Tim has an MBA from Eastern Illinois University.

Processing Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits on Your Campus

Presenters: Joan Ryan, Administrator, State Approving Agency for Veteran's Education, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

Mike Rann, Veterans Coordinator, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

Joan has been in her role as director at the Illinois State Approving Agency for Veteran's Education, since February 2002. Prior to that, Joan was a Veteran's Education Specialist from 1990 to 2002 and Administrator of the Illinois MIA/POW Scholarship Program from 1987-90. Joan has a B.A. in Management from Sangamon State University and an MPA from the University of Illinois – Springfield.

Mike has been at Southern Illinois University – Carbondale for 20 years, and has served as their Veteran Certifying Official for the last 5 years. He is responsible for the certification of federal student veteran programs, as well as overseeing administration of the state military programs. Mike is also responsible for calculating and returning Title IV funds.

Implementing a Training Plan

Presenter: Michelle Stipp, Student Finance Policy and Training Manager, DeVry University

Michelle has been in financial aid for 13 years and have worked as an associate director at both Olivet Nazarene University and University of St. Francis. In 2005, she began working at DeVry University and is currently the Policy and Training Manager. Michelle's training team conducts many training events each year for new hires and existing staff either at the campuses, at our home office or via the web. In addition to training, her team is also responsible for all Student Finance policies, international student policies and procedures as well as all print and web materials relating to financial aid.

Marketing Financial Literacy on Campus- Part 2

Presenter: Russell Goeltenbodt, Student Advocate/Financial Literacy Specialist, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Russ is the Student Advocate/ Financial Literacy Specialist for Illinois Student Assistance Commission. He has worked in higher education for over 20 years and has managed all areas of student financial services. As a Financial Literacy Specialist, Russ relies on his many years of financial aid experience to connect and communicate with students and families at high school assemblies, college fairs, libraries and other appropriate venues, including upcoming Money Smart Week events.

Verification 102

Presenter: Bridget Curl, Associate Director of Program Administration and Compliance, Illinois State University

Bridget is currently the Associate Director of Program Administration and Compliance at ISU. Prior to that, she was Assistant Director of Student Employment and Loans at ISU.

Birds of a Feather Discussion - Financial Aid and Enrollment Management

Presenter: Eric Weems, Director of Financial Aid, Loyola University Chicago

Eric has been the Director at Loyola for 12 years and has been a financial aid professional for 21 years. Prior to Loyola University Chicago, Eric worked at SIU-Carbondale, Illinois State and at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

Tax Returns

Presenter: Amanda Fijal, Director of Financial Aid Compliance, University of Chicago

Amanda Fijal is the Director of Financial Aid Compliance at The University of Chicago and is responsible for coordinating compliance and technology activities for the university's four financial aid offices. Previously, she was the Associate Director for Client Services at Loyola University Chicago and Associate Director at Saint Xavier University. She has over 11 years experience in financial aid and is currently the Co-Chair of Membership for ILASFAA.

Title IV Refunds

Presenter: Marie Gillibrand, Financial Aid Coordinator, Illinois State University

Marie has been in financial aid since 1999. She is currently the Coordinator of State and Federal Grants at Illinois State University. In addition to MAP and Pell, Marie also handles ACG/SMART and Return of Title IV Funds.

The Future of MAP Grant and Other State Programs

Presenter: Susan Kleemann, Director of Research, Planning & Policy Analysis, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Susan has worked at ISAC for nine years, first as an analyst and, for the past six years, as director of Research, Planning and Policy Analysis.

Getting Involved with ILASFAA

Presenters: Michelle Trame, ILASFAA President-Elect

Paula Luff, ILASFAA Past-President

Sue Swisher, ILASFAA President

Michelle is the Associate Director of Student Financial Aid at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and has 18 years of financial aid experience. Michelle has a Bachelor's degree in Finance from Illinois State University and a Master's degree in Education from the University of Illinois. She has participated at the national, regional and state levels and is the current President-Elect of the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (ILASFAA).

Paula is currently the Associate Vice President for Financial Aid at DePaul University. She has over twenty years of experience in financial aid and has held positions at a variety of colleges and universities, including Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Illinois at Chicago and Loyola University Chicago. Paula has been active in ILASFAA for many years and will complete her duties as Past President at the 2010 ILASFAA Conference.

Sue is the Assistant Vice President of Student Financial Services at Saint Xavier University and has been in financial aid over 27 years with the last 16 years at Saint Xavier. Sue has been active in ILASFAA for the past 16 years and is currently serving as your President.

Money Management for Students

Presenter: Anne Fischer, Debt Management Consultant, USA Funds

Anne has been a Debt Management Consultant with USA Funds Services since 2004. USA Funds is the largest student loan guarantor in the country. Her responsibilities include working with colleges and universities to promote financial literacy, debt management and prevention products and services for use with their students. She also assists institutions with understanding and finding solutions to improve retention rates at their schools as well as use of tools to help lower default rates.

Counseling Students - Successful Strategies

Presenter: Jamie Peterson, Manager of Student Financial Assistance, Oakton Community College

Creating Partnerships with Your Area High Schools

Presenter: Lori Jones, FA Specialist & Veteran's Ed. Benefits, Danville Area Community College

Lee Bursi, Assistant. Vice President - Financial Aid, Lincoln Land Community College

Sherry Summary, Director for Student Financial Assistance, John A. Logan College

Adam Clark, ISACorps Member, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Erik Rancatore, ISACorps Member, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Lori has worked in financial assistance for over 12 years. She is a Veteran of the US Armed Forces and an active in many ILASFAA committees and volunteer work throughout the years.

Lee has been a Financial Aid Administrator since 1989. He conducts financial aid and/or FAFSA nights and is Chair of the Site Leadership Team at Springfield Southeast High School.

Sherry has worked in the financial aid field for 14 years. She has been a CAP member since its inception and has developed and coordinated Financial Aid Workshops for the past 11 years.

Adam graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University with a B.A. in Political Science. He now works as a member of the ISACorps in the Heartland District and lives in Bloomington.

Erik currently works as an Outreach Representative for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission in southern Illinois. Erik received his B.A. in Radio-Television from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and is now working on his M.A. in Media Theory and Research also at SIUC. Erik has previously worked with the Chicago Fire, National Marine Manufacturers Association, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute and various media outlets.

Birds of a Feather Discussion: Post-9/11 GI Bill

Presenter: Joan Ryan, Administrator, State Approving Agency for Veteran's Education, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

Joan has been in her role as director at the Illinois State Approving Agency for Veteran's Education, since February 2002. Prior to that, Joan was a Veteran's Education Specialist from 1990 to 2002 and Administrator of the Illinois MIA/POW Scholarship Program from 1987-90. Joan has a B.A. in Management from Sangamon State University and an MPA from the University of Illinois – Springfield.

Changes in Private Loans/ Truth in Lending

Presenters: Jen Marqui, Account Manager, Citi Student Loans
Christina Rose, Account Manager, Citi Student Loans

Jen began her financial aid career as a FWS student at the University of Northern Iowa. After moving to Chicago, she re-entered the industry to work as a loan coordinator at Argosy University. After a few years on the school side, she worked briefly at PNC Bank as an Account Manager covering Illinois and Indiana. Then in 2005, she joined Citibank in her current capacity as an Account Manager for the Midwest territory.

Christina began her higher education career in college admissions which led her to Financial Aid. One hectic August afternoon her Citi lender representative asked Christina if she knew anyone who might be interested in a lender position. After explaining the laws of FERPA yet again to the same family three times in one day she decided she just might be that person.

Mapping Your Future – Getting the Most from Online Student Loan Counseling

Presenter: Sam Nelson, Director of Client Relations, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Sam Nelson has worked in higher education for over 20 years. Prior to joining ISAC in 1993, he served as the Assistant Director of Financial Aid at North Central College, from which he graduated. Sam has been an active participant and leader in many professional organizations such as Mapping Your Future, ELM Resources, National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP), and the Education Finance Council (EFC).

Professional Judgment 102

Presenter: Cheryl Schaffer, Director of Financial Aid, Heartland Community College

Cheryl started in the financial aid profession in 1985. Since then, she has worked at Northern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Lawrence University (Wisconsin) and Heartland Community College.

Managing Challenging Students and Parents

Presenters: Jo Branson, Financial Aid Director, Spoon River College
Joanna Dye, Financial Aid Director, Black Hawk College

Jo Branson has worked at Spoon River College for over 4 years. Before, that she served at Carl Sandburg College for 8 years.

Joanna Dye has been at Black Hawk College for over 25 years, serving as Director of Financial Aid for the last 3 years. She has also served in ILASFAA in many positions including Secretary and Vice President for Community Colleges.

Need Analysis Changes

Presenters: Terri Hare, Director, University Scholarship Activities, Western Illinois University
Mary Lawson, Assistant to the Director, Financial Aid Office, Western Illinois University

Prior to becoming Director of University Scholarship Activities this March, Terri was in the Financial Aid Office for 25 years and held the position of Associate Director at WIU.

Mary was a financial aid advisor at WIU for 25 years before her appointment in October, 2009 as assistant to the Director of financial aid.

Birds of a Feather Discussion: Grad/Professional School

Presenter: Donna Sobie, Director of Financial Aid, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

Donna Sobie has been the Director of Financial Aid at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine for the past 26 years. She has been involved with financial aid for 30 years. Donna is an ILASFAA Past President and has been active with ILASFAA and MASFAA for many years.

One-on-One with Jamie Malone

Presenter: Jamie Malone, Training Officer, US Department of Education

Jamie is a Training Officer in the U.S. Department of Education's Chicago Regional Office. She has worked for the U.S. Department of Education in Chicago since July 1990. Jamie started as Program Reviewer, a position she held for about six years, and then moved to her current job as Training Officer. Prior to joining the Department, Jamie worked in financial aid and accounting at a proprietary school for nine years.

Grad/ Professional Counseling – A Panel Discussion of Best Practices

Presenters: Cynthia Brewer, Senior Financial Aid Counselor, University of Chicago
Maureen Amos, Associate Director of Financial Aid, Northeastern Illinois University
Joni Scott, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, Lewis University
Yara Santana, Director of Financial Aid, The John Marshall Law School

Cynthia is a Senior Financial Aid Counselor at the University of Chicago - Graduate School. Prior to the U of C, she was at DeVry University and the U. S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, Chicago Region as an Institutional Review Specialist.

Maureen is the Associate Director of Financial Aid, Northeastern Illinois University. Previously, she was an Assistant Director in Office of Student Financial Aid at University of Illinois at Chicago. Mo has been very active with NASFAA and MASFAA, in addition to ILASFAA.

Jon is the Assistant Director of Financial Aid Services at Lewis University. Joni has been working in higher education for 9 years. This is Joni's first year as a member of ILASFAAs Graduate and Professional committee.

Yara has been Director of Financial Aid at The John Marshall Law School since March 2003 and has worked at the John Marshall Law School since November. 1991. She received her BA in English from DePaul .

College Savings Plans: College Illinois/Bright Start

Presenters: Tonya Polk, Manager of Sales & Marketing - College Illinois!, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Tonya has been employed with ISAC for two years, all working with College Illinois!.

Loans 101

Presenter: Tad Verdun, Associate Director, Loyola University

Tad currently serves as the Associate Director for Compliance for Loyola University Chicago. He has been employed at Loyola University Chicago since 1997.

General Session/Brunch -- The Legislative Landscape

Presenter: Vicki Shipley, Senior Advisor, National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP)

Vicki Shipley is a Senior Advisor to the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP) in Washington DC. With more than 30 years of student loan experience, Vicki's expertise is in the legislative and regulatory arena and is a member and frequent speaker at many of the state and regional associations of financial aid administrators. Vicki was most recently the Vice President of Government and Industry Relations at FinanSure Student loans and also held a similar position at Southwest Student Services Corporation and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. Vicki is currently the co-chair of the WASFAA Federal Relations Committee and also serves on the CASFAA Federal Issues Committee and is also the past president of CLFE (California Lenders for Education). Vicki has a graduate degree in Business Administration from the University of Illinois in Springfield and an undergraduate degree in Accounting from Illinois State University.