

## ILASFAA 2010 Conference-Springfield

**Date and Time of Session:** Thursday March 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 **Session Title:** Creating Partnerships with Your Area High Schools

**Session Description:** *This session is in panel format with members of the ILASFAA College Awareness and Preparation (CAP) committee, Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) Outreach and Corp staff and Financial Aid Administrators. There will also be a few high school counselors as guests. The panel discussion will provide first hand experiences and best practices on how to create, improve and foster good working relationship with your area high schools and provide outreach activities and services to better serve the high school students in your community.*

### Panelist Information:

**Lori Jones**, FA Specialist & Veteran's Ed. Benefits, Danville Area Community College, Phone: 217.443.8864, E-mail: [lojo@dacc.edu](mailto:lojo@dacc.edu)  
Brief, biographical information: BS Degree from EIU. Has worked in FA for over 12 years, a Veteran of the US Armed Forces, active in many ILASFAA committees and volunteer work throughout the years. Has conducted FA Nights at Area High Schools and other community venues.

**Lee Bursi**, Assist. VP Financial Aid, Lincoln Land Community College, Phone: 217.786.2446, E-mail: [lee.bursi@llcc.edu](mailto:lee.bursi@llcc.edu)  
Brief, biographical information: Education: BS from ISU. Has been a Financial Aid Administrator since 1989. Has worked in FA in IL since 1979. Prior to my financial aid years taught in alternative schools and also did community organizing with Neighborhood Housing Services. Has conducted financial aid and/or FAFSA completion nights. Is the Chair of the Site Leadership Team at Springfield Southeast High School.

**Sherry Summary**, Director for Student Financial Assistance, John A. Logan College, Phone: 618.985.3741, E-mail: [sherrysummary@jalcc.edu](mailto:sherrysummary@jalcc.edu)  
Brief, biographical information: AS from Rend Lake College, BS from SIUC and MA from Rockford College. 14th year in the financial aid field. I have been a CAP member since its inception and have developed and coordinated Financial Aid Workshops for the past 11 years.

**Erik Rancatore**, Outreach Representative, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Phone: 618.973.9986, E-mail: [erancatore@isac.org](mailto:erancatore@isac.org)  
Brief, biographical information: Currently work for ISAC in the southern portion of the state through the Corps Program. BS from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

**Adam Clark**, Outreach Representative/ ISACCorps, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Phone: 309.660.5039, Email: [aclark@isac.org](mailto:aclark@isac.org)  
Brief, biographic information: BA Wesleyan University. Work with the ISAC Corps in the Heartland District.

### Take Notes:

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### Take Actions:

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### Best Practice/Helpful Hints –

- **Be involved with your school district counselors and get to know them. What opportunities *already* exist that you can “invite yourself to”?**
  - High School Articulation Day
  - Career Fairs/College Days
  - Parent Nights/ Workshops
  - Activities planned for High School Seniors
- **Offer to Host or provide meeting space for your high school counselors at your campus.**
  - Do they get together for regular meetings? If so, ask to be on the Agenda of one
  - Do they have regular training or workshops that you could also participate in?
  - Can you be the lead in planning a training event or workshop that would benefit them in their profession?
- **“Promote” yourself to be invited to (or create) early awareness initiatives for the high school freshman and sophomores.**
  - Emphasis that finding funding sources for college cannot start the senior year and offer resources to educate this targeted group
  - Host events at your campus for the parents of high school freshman and sophomores with an open invitation to the counselors
  - Have a communication “link” in place that you keep your area high school counselors updated with scholarship information and the newest “scams” and other useful information they can pass on to their students/parents
- **Make a priority of keeping your high school counselors “up to date”**
  - Promote the ISAC sponsored FAFSA Workshops for counselors (they are free)
  - When changes are made to the fafsa make “cheat sheets” and send these out to your counselors
  - Offer to do a fafsa 101 each year, they need guidance for Foster Youth, Homeless Youth and Undocumented
  - Offer to present a FA Night or better, invite them to one you host on your campus
  - Have an email listing group of all counselors and keep in touch throughout the year
  - Link your counselors to your campus electronic Newsletter and/or Announcement page