

# **ILASFAA**

## **Annual Conference**



**The Westin Chicago Lombard**  
**Lombard, IL**  
**March 9 – 11, 2026**

# Monday, March 9th



Time	Session	Location/Room
8:00 am – 11:30 am	Exhibitor Set-Up	
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration Open	
8:30 am – 11:00 am	Pre-Conference NASFAA Credentials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Packaging &amp; Aid Notification</li> <li>• Cost of Attendance</li> </ul>	GH IJ
11:30 am – 5:00 pm	Exhibit Area Open	
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	General Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President’s Welcome – Chelley Jackson</li> <li>• Vendor Introductions</li> <li>• Lunch</li> </ul>	EF/Ballroom
1:00 pm – 1:15 pm	Break / Exhibitor Visit	
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Interest Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reframing Self-Care: Building a Lifestyle That Empowers You to Serve Others</li> <li>• PLUS Loans: Entering the Upside Down</li> <li>• AI in Financial Aid: What Works, What Doesn’t, &amp; What Comes Next</li> <li>• The RightSide Up: Finding Clarity &amp; Opportunity in Your Career</li> </ul>	GH AB CD IJ
2:15 pm – 2:45 pm	Break / Exhibitor Visit	
2:45 pm – 3:45 pm	Interest Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISAC: Program Overview</li> <li>• Financial Aid Jeopardy</li> <li>• The Upside Down of Federal PLUS: Secrets from the Lender List Lab</li> <li>• R2T4 Panel</li> <li>• Illinois State Treasurers Office: Helping Students &amp; Families Plan for College</li> </ul>	IJ GH EF/Ballroom CD AB
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Break / Exhibitor Visit	
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Birds of a Feather (by Role) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directors, Managers, and/or People Leaders</li> <li>• Counseling/Front Line Service</li> <li>• Scholarships</li> <li>• Compliance/Training</li> <li>• Fiscal/Data and Systems</li> <li>• Loan Coordinators</li> </ul>	GH IJ A B C D
5:45 pm – 7:00 pm	General Session: Dinner & Awards	EF/Ballroom
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Scavenger Hunt, Games & Cash Bar	EF/Ballroom

# Tuesday, March 10th



Time	Session	Location/Room
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Registration Desk Open	
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast	
9:00 am – 4:15 pm	Exhibitor Area Open	
8:30 am – 9:30 am	General Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illinois Student Assistance Commission</li> </ul>	EF/Ballroom
9:30 am – 9:45 am	Break / Exhibitor Visit	
9:45 am – 10:45 am	Interest Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beyond Loans &amp; Limits: Financial Aid Administration in the Upside Down</li> <li>• Through the Portal: FAFSA Simplification Then and Now</li> <li>• Cultivating the Next Generation of Leaders</li> <li>• That Was Due When? The Importance of an Operational Calendar</li> <li>• Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs</li> </ul>	EF/Ballroom GH IJ AB CD
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Break / Exhibitor Visit	
11:00 am – 11:30 am	General Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MASFAA Update – Emily Haynam (University of Missouri)</li> </ul>	EF/Ballroom
11:30 am – 12:45 pm	General Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lunch</li> <li>• Business Meeting</li> <li>• Vendor Introductions</li> </ul>	EF/Ballroom
12:45 pm – 1:45 pm	General Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The 9<sup>th</sup> Episode” Keynote Speaker Zack Goodwin, Marquette University</li> </ul>	EF/Ballroom
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Interest Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strange Happenings: How to be a Positive Parent or Guardian through the Financial Aid Process</li> <li>• Staff Churn: Dealing w/Planned &amp; Unexpected Staff Turnover</li> <li>• StudentCents – Fraud Education and Prevention</li> <li>• ISAC: Financial Aid Completion Initiative</li> <li>• Financial Aid Data and Dashboards</li> </ul>	GH AB IJ CD EF/Ballroom
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Break / Exhibitor Visit	
3:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Interest Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using Data to Build an Equity-Minded Aid Program</li> <li>• Unlock the Curiosity Door to the Alternative Application: A Review of the 2026-27 Alternative Application Process</li> <li>• P&amp;P - More Fun than D&amp;D!</li> <li>• You Want Me to Talk to Who? Advocacy &amp; You</li> </ul>	AB CD GH IJ



# Tuesday, March 10th

Time	Session	Location/Room
4:15 pm – 4:30 pm	Break / Exhibitor Visit	
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	System Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campus Solutions / PeopleSoft</li> <li>• Banner</li> <li>• Colleague</li> <li>• Homegrown/Other Not Listed</li> <li>• PowerFAIDS / Jenzabar</li> </ul>	IJ CD EF/Ballroom GH AB
5:30 pm	Dinner on your Own	
7:30 pm	Evening Entertainment –Music Bingo with Game Night Live & Cash Bar	EF/Ballroom

# Wednesday, March 11th

Time	Session	Location/Room
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Registration Desk Open	
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Sector Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Public Institutions</li> <li>• Private Institutions</li> <li>• Community Colleges</li> <li>• Health Professions</li> <li>• Proprietary Institutions</li> </ul>	GH IJ CD A B
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Brunch Buffet/Break	EF/Ballroom
10:00 am – 11:00 am	General Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NASFAA Inside the Beltway (Virtual): Rachel Rotunda</li> </ul>	EF/Ballroom
11:15 am - 12:00 pm	General Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raffle Winners</li> <li>• Passing the Gavel</li> <li>• Sneak Peak to ILASFAA 2027 Conference</li> </ul>	EF/Ballroom



**Thank You**  
**for Attending the**  
**2026 ILASFAA Annual Conference!**