



The Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Inc.

2025-2026

ILASFAA EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION ELECTION BALLOT INFORMATION

Name of Candidate: **Alexiss Underwood**

Candidate is running for the office of: **Regional Coordinator**

Candidate's EDUCATION background -- degree, institution, year (year is optional):

- **Master of Education in Education, Policy, Organization & Leadership from the University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign, December 2012**
- **Bachelor of Liberal Arts & Sciences in Communication from the University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign, May 2011**

Candidate's PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (please list current position first):

Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- *Senior Assistant Director, Processing & Operations* May 2023-Present
- *Assistant Director, Student Services & Outreach* October 2019-May 2023
- *Senior Financial Aid Administrator, Student Services & Outreach* May 2018-October 2019
- *Financial Aid Administrator, Student Services & Outreach* April 2014-May 2018

Hobbico Inc. Champaign, IL

- *Training Specialist* January 2013-March 2014

Candidate's PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES – years and activities:

- **ILASFAA Training and Professional Development Committee Co-Chair 2024-2025**
- **Chicago Public Schools College Compact: Finance Committee 4 years**

As a Candidate what you would like the membership to know about you:

While pursuing my Master of Education in Education, Policy, Organization, & Leadership, with a concentration in Human Resource Development, I had the opportunity to serve as a graduate assistant in the Career Center where I discovered my passion for advising students and helping them achieve their career goals. When the opportunity arose to work in the Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign I knew it was a perfect fit for me. Not only have I been able to utilize my skills in training development to serve the staff with OSFA, but for the past 10 years I have been able to help students pursue their dream of obtaining a college degree.

Throughout my career I have kept at the forefront how the work that we do as Financial Aid Administrators changes the lives of millions of students across the nation. I was a first generation, low-income, and underrepresented student, so I know firsthand the role that financial aid plays in making it possible for others to obtain a college degree. I would not have

been able to attend college without the assistance of the federal Pell, the State of Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP), and institutional need-based aid provided by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Over the course of my career in OSFA I have had the privilege to hear the stories of countless students who would not have been able to attend without assistance from financial aid, and to know that I may have played just a small part in some of those stories has been one of the most humbling and rewarding experiences in my career.

My career has progressed from a Student Financial Aid Administrator to leadership roles as the Assistant Director of Training and Compliance within Student Services & Outreach, and currently as the Senior Assistant Director of Processing & Operations. My transitions into leadership roles have been on cusp of some of the most challenging times faced by our profession, which has taught me the importance of strategic leadership and multi-directional leadership. I look forward harnessing all that I have learned over the years to continue to advocate for our students and for our profession.

PLEASE RETURN this form to Elyse Weller, ILASFAA Past President by November 6, 2024
to:elyse.weller@siu.edu

THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO RUN FOR AN ILASFAA OFFICE!