



NCASFAA BEACON

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NC ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

2010 - 2011

*“Sing the Music of Financial Aid”
NCASFAA 2011 - 2012*

Our Nominations & Elections

Committee has put together a great slate of candidates for our open positions next year.

Learn more about the candidates inside this issue. Further details about online voting are coming soon.

-Lisa Koretoff
Past President

**“President - Elect for NCASFAA”
NCASFAA 2011 - 2012**

Bridget Ellis
Financial Aid Director, Barton College
NCASFAA Presidential Candidate

I am honored and excited to be asked to run for the Office of President for NCASFAA. I have just celebrated 20 years with NCASFAA and consider our members my colleagues, my trainers, my mentors, and most of all, my friends. I have had the opportunity to serve NCASFAA as Secretary and as the chair for the Fall Program, Spring Program, Agencies, Professional Advancement, and Membership Committees. I have served as a member of the NCASFAA Executive Board for many years. After ten years of working as an aid administrator, I was then able to work in the lending community where I could also function as a trusted advisor to many aid officers. Since returning to a campus financial aid

office, I realize how thankful I am for the many years of training and support provided by NCASFAA. I truly recognize that NCASFAA’s membership and its training efforts are second to none. NCASFAA resources assist all of us with the responsibility of helping us guide students toward their educational success. I share your desire and expectation that NCASFAA will continue to provide training opportunities. If elected, I will continue to support and expand those opportunities as well as explore other areas that you as NCASFAA members, can help identify. Thank you for your support.

Experience:

Financial Aid Director, Barton College April 2010 to present
Financial Aid Services Director, College Foundation, Inc.
Vice President, College Loan Corporation
Sales Executive, Sallie Mae
Account Executive, Key Education Resources
Director of Student Services and Financial Aid, East Carolina University, Brody School of Medicine
Assistant Director of Financial Aid, East Carolina University
Assistant Director of Financial Aid, Barton College

Education:

Bachelor of Arts, Atlantic Christian College (Barton College)

Professional Affiliations:

NCASFAA
SASFAA
Institutional member of NASFAA



*“Vice President for NCASFEEA”
NCASFEEA 2011 - 2012*



I want to begin by thanking the Nominations & Elections Committee for honoring me with the nomination of Vice-President of NCASFEEA. This association has done so much for me over the years and I am always grateful for new opportunities to get involved each year.

I began my professional career in 2003 at Montgomery Community College as Financial Aid Officer. Being new to the profession, I knew I had a lot to learn and that I needed to develop a network of colleagues fast. NCASFEEA helped me with both of these challenges. I first joined NCASFEEA in 2003 and needless to say, I was impressed with both the professionalism and passion that its members had. I attended several conferences and various other training opportunities hosted around the State of North Carolina. I can't imagine what my career would have been like without such a close family of professionals. In 2005 I became the Director of Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs at Randolph Community College. While I wasn't new to the profession anymore, I still relied on my friends from the association and the training opportunities for staff.

Over the past few years, I have been afforded the opportunities to give back just a small portion of what NCASFEEA has given me and I would be honored to continue giving back by representing you as Vice-President of NCASFEEA. - Chad Williams

Higher Education Employment History:

2005 – Present

Director of Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs
Randolph Community College

2003-2005

Financial Aid Officer
Montgomery Community College

Association Involvement:

Served on the NCASFEEA Budget and Finance Committee

Served on the NCASFEEA Diversity Issues Committee

Served as a NCASFEEA Nominations and Elections Committee Member, Two-Year Public

NCASFEEA Conference Presenter

NCASFEEA Fall Training Instructor for NC

**“Vice President for NCASFAA”
NCASFAA 2011 - 2012**

It is with great pleasure to accept the nomination of Vice President for NCASFAA. When I first began working in financial aid I was amazed at the amount of support you received from your colleagues in this profession. After attending my first NCASFAA conference I was ready to get involved. Since that time I have increased my involvement in the organization. I am currently serving as NCASFAA Secretary.

As a member of NCASFAA, I have been active as the Chair for Intermediate Training, as a NASFAA Trainer and I have assisted with other various committees over the past 10 years.

We have seen a lot of changes in our profession over the past 2 years and more change is coming. As we continue on this journey, I would like to be a part of the team to ensure that as we switch lanes at various speeds and times, we continue to ensure that the students of North Carolina are not left behind and we are able to provide them with excellent service and access to Higher Education.

I welcome the opportunity to serve you as Vice President of NCASFAA.

-Ronnelle Hamilton

Associate Director of Financial Aid
North Carolina A & T State University

NCASFAA

Intermediate Aid Officer Co- Chair
New Aid Officer Committee member
NASFAA the Trainer Training
NCASFAA Secretary

NC A&T University

Associate Director of Financial Aid
2007– Present

Salem College

Director of Financial Aid
2006-2007

UNC Greensboro

Assistant Director of Financial Aid
1999-2006

UNC Greensboro

Financial Aid Counselor
1997-1999

UNC Greensboro

Accounts Receivable Clerk
1995-1997



“Treasurer - Elect for NCASF^{AA}”
NCASF^{AA} 2011 - 2012



I would like to thank the Nominations and Elections Committee for providing me with the opportunity to run for Treasurer-Elect for NCASF^{AA}. Having been a member of NCASF^{AA} for the past two years, I have seen in this short time the dedication and commitment that is necessary to serve this organization.

I am currently working as a Financial Planning Counselor at Wingate University, having been in this role since 2008. Prior to my employment at Wingate, I worked as an Assistant Data Analyst for the National Wildlife Federation. If given the opportunity to serve, I believe I would bring the necessary skills that are needed to continue the exceptional work of this organization. I am committed to learning all aspects of the work left by my predecessors and will be diligent in my efforts to be a good steward for NCASF^{AA}.

Jenn Pearson
Financial Planning Counselor
Wingate University

*“Secretary for NCASF^{AA}”
NCASF^{AA} 2011 - 2012*

I am honored for the nomination to serve as the Secretary for this fine association of ours. NCASF^{AA} has meant so much to me in my 14 years in financial aid and this will be a wonderful way for me to give back.

I began my financial aid career as the Secretary in the Office of Student Financial Services at Forsyth Tech under Regina Draughn in 1997. In 1999 I was promoted to Financial Aid Technician. I obtained my current position in 2004 and it has been full speed ahead ever since! Thankfully, I work with an awesome group of people who make life entertaining.

I like to be entertaining. So much of what we do every day is serious, and even depressing, so I try to make people laugh whenever possible. I would definitely bring a sense of humor to the NCASF^{AA} Board. Also, I type well over 60 words a minute and have people in my office willing to proofread for me.

I have a MBA and BS in Business Administration from High Point University. I also hold an AAS in Information Systems from Forsyth Tech. I am pretty sure I attended every “class” NCASF^{AA} offered when I started and I’m still waiting on my “NCASF^{AA} Degree”. I honestly do not think I would have made it in this profession without the training I received in those first years, the continuing training, or the colleagues I have met.



What we do changes people’s lives and we could not survive this profession without one another. So, I thank you not only for the nomination, but also for the constant support.

-Jodi Dyson

Forsyth Technical Community College

**“Secretary for NCASF^{AA}”
NCASF^{AA} 2011 - 2012**



Employment

Financial Aid Secretary
Central Carolina Community College
1995-1996

Financial Aid Associate
Sandhills Community College
1996-1997

Assistant Director of Financial Aid
Sandhills Community College
1997-2007

Director of Financial Aid
Sandhills Community College
2007-Present

Education and Professional Accomplishments

Bachelors in Arts (1999),
St. Andrew's Presbyterian College

Master of Arts in Education (2005),
Western Carolina University

I am honored to be nominated to serve as your NCASF^{AA} Secretary. I thank the Nominations and Elections Committee for this wonderful opportunity to serve the NCASF^{AA} membership.

My career in financial aid began on January 2, 1995, when I accepted a position as a Financial Aid Secretary at Central Carolina Community College. I did not know much about financial aid, but once I began, I found the work to be challenging and rewarding. A year and a half later, I accepted a position at Sandhills Community College and was named Assistant Director of Financial Aid in 1997. After serving for 10 years as the Assistant Director, I became the Director of Financial Aid in 2007. In addition, I have worked extensively with veterans using their VA educational benefits and have held various positions in the NC Association of Coordinators of Veterans Affairs including two terms as President.

Throughout my 16-year financial aid career, I have experienced many changes in financial aid, including modifications to regulations, an increase in financial aid programs, and the implementation of new computer systems. Throughout all of these adjustments, NCASF^{AA} has been there for me by providing crucial support through trainings, conferences, and networking opportunities. I feel that the value NCASF^{AA} provides to its members far exceeds the monetary cost of membership. I am sure that without the support of NCASF^{AA}, I would not have made it 16 years in the financial aid world!

It is an honor to have the opportunity to serve as NCASF^{AA} Secretary. I assure you that I will take this responsibility seriously and work hard to ensure that YOUR association continues to be the supportive and informative organization that we know and love!

-Heather Willett

Sandhills Community College

“Nominations & Elections Committee-4-year Public Sector”
NCASFAA 2011 - 2012



My name is **Lori J. Graham**, Student Services Specialist, Loan Coordinator, Financial Aid Counselor, and Interim Veteran Certifying Official at the University of North Carolina Pembroke. I would like to thank my fellow NCASFAA colleagues for accepting my nomination for the Nominations & Elections Committee-4-year Public Sector. It would be an honor to have the opportunity to represent the financial aid community in this capacity.

My financial aid experience began working in the Military Education System overseas and here in the states. Serving our military in this capacity was very rewarding for me and influenced me to further my own education and continue pursuing financial aid positions. I have been with UNC Pembroke since 2005 and through training, conferences and having a close financial aid community within NCASFAA; it has helped me to become the financial aid representative I am today.

My professional experience:

University of NC-Pembroke-Student Services Specialist, Loan Coordinator, Financial Aid Counselor, and Interim VA Representative (2004-Present)

Sandhills Community College-Pinehurst, NC-Financial Aid/Enrollment Management Assistant (2003-2004)

Chapman University-McChord Air Force Base/Fort Lewis, WA, Department Assistant (1998-2002)

Central Texas College-Torii Station, Okinawa, Japan-Site Coordinator/Director (1997-1998)

Army Community Service-Torii Station, Okinawa, Japan- Military Relocation Specialist (1996-1997)

Professional Associations:

North Carolina Association of Financial Aid Administrators (**NCASFAA**)

Society for Human Resource Management (**SHRM**)

“Nominations & Elections Committee-4-year Public Sector”
NCASFAA 2011 - 2012

I would like to thank the Nominations & Elections Committee for the nomination to serve as the Four-Year Public Sector Representative.

I began my career in financial aid in 1994 as a financial aid counselor at Cazenovia

College (New York). In 1997, I moved to Charlotte, NC and became the Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Queens University. It was that same year; I joined NCASFAA and went to my very first conference. For the past 10 years, I have worked as the Associate Director of Financial Aid at UNC Charlotte.

Since 1997, I have been an active member of NCASFAA and have been fortunate to serve in many different capacities within the organization. If elected, I will do my very best to find candidates to serve and lead our organization into the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve and I appreciate your support!!!

-Patti Bowman

UNC Charlotte



“ Agency Representative to Nominations and Elections Committee ”

NCASFAA 2011 - 2012



I want to express my thanks and appreciation for this nomination for Agency Representative to NCASFAA's Nominations and Elections committee.

It's been a while since I began my career in higher education as an admissions counselor at St. Andrews Presbyterian College. I'm a little surprised to find myself celebrating a personal (and professional) anniversary: 15 years of work in support of higher education.

I certainly wouldn't be celebrating this anniversary if it weren't for the guidance of my colleagues throughout North Carolina. I know that each of you is a phone call or an email away. Your sound judgment, expert knowledge, and sympathetic ear have meant a great deal to me...and to the students with whom I've worked. Really, where would those students be if NCASFAA members hadn't been there to extend my knowledge-base and point me toward the right resources?

Now that some time has passed, I hope that you find me to be a sympathetic ear, one with reasonable judgment and some level of expertise. I am the proud of the role that we all play in promoting student access to higher education, and I hope that you will honor me with this opportunity to give back to our organization.

If you would like a summary of my professional experiences, feel free to go to: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/traebrookins>

Thanks!

Trae Brookins

Scholarship & Grant Manager

North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

“ Agency Representative to Nominations and Elections Committee ”

NCASFAA 2011 - 2012



I want to thank the Nominations and Elections Committee for the nomination to serve as the Agencies Representative. I have been an active member of NCASFAA for over 15 years and would love the opportunity to serve our association again.

I have over 18 years of experience in the Financial Aid profession including

experience at both the four year public and community college levels, and now at the Agencies level in North Carolina. My NCASFAA experience has allowed me to serve the association on many levels in committees and on the NCASFFA Board. Some of my positions in NCASFAA include the Spring Conference Program Chair, many years on the conference program committee, and other committees. My positions on the NCASFAA Board include Agencies Chair, Lender Liaison and Site Selection Chair.

Thanks again for this opportunity to continue to serve NCASFAA and its members.

-Casey Wallen

National Education

“Private College Representative to Nominations and Elections Committee”

NCASFAA 2011 - 2012



I am honored by the nomination to serve as your representative on the Nominations and Elections Committee for Private Colleges of NCASFAA.

My career in financial aid began in 2000 at Lees-McRae College as Assistant Director of Financial Aid. While working at Lees-McRae I volunteered with various committees for NCASFAA and SASFAA. In 2006, I joined Citibank – Student Loan Corporation to fill the mighty shoes of Barbara McQueen. In 2009, I became the Director of Financial Aid at Salem College and continue to learn and grow on this beautiful campus.

I have been a member of NCASFAA for over 10 years and I look forward to serving and offering my skills and talents to this wonderful association. Thank you NCASFAA for this opportunity to serve this wonderful, friendly group of professionals!

Lori Lewis

Director of Financial Aid

Salem College