



60th Anniversary Celebration

May 19-22, 2026

EASFAA MISSION STATEMENT

The Eastern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (EASFAA) provides a community for its individual members and member associations to share ideas and experiences related to student financial aid. The Association strives to prepare its members to ethically and competently serve the students, parents and institutions they represent.

The Association is committed to promoting financial aid programs and to supporting and providing professional development activities that embrace the sound principles and practices of student financial aid administration. The Association is also committed to facilitating communication among its members and acting as an advocate for regional policy with the United States Congress and the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA).

**PRESIDENTS
of the
EASTERN ASSOCIATION
of
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS
1967-68 through 2025-26**



1967-68
Jack Critchfield



1968-69
Peter Gunness



1969-71
Grant Curtis



1971-73
Thomas Wadlington



1973-75
John Madigan



1975-77
Martin Lefkovits



1977-79
Marcia Gardiner



1979-80
Arthur Fritz



1980-81
Richard Black



1981-82
Douglas MacDonald



1982-83
Micheileen Treadwell



1983-84
Renee Saleh



1984-85
Robert Condon



1985-86
P. Jerome Cunningham



1986-87
Joseph Sciame



1987-88
Burt Batty



1988-89
Arthur James



1989-90
Arthur Jackson



1990-91
Irvin Bodofsky



1991-92
William Irwin



1992-93
Richelle Emerick



1993-94
Linda Anderson-Mercier



1994-95
Rachael Lohman



1995-96
Yvonne Gittens



1996-97
Douglas Bucher



1997-98
David Myette



1998-99
George Chin



1999-2000
Michael Bennett



2000-01
Pamela Gilligan



2001-02
Robert D. Shorb



2002-03
Susan Allen



2003-04
Christine Zuzack



2004-05
Thomas Dalton



2005-06
Susan Howard



2006-07
Larry Chambers



2007-08
William Cheetham



2008-09
Gordon Koff



2009-10
Barbara Miller



2010-11
Neville Brown



2011-12
Richard Heath



2012-13
Cathleen Patella



2013-14
Brian Lemma



2014-15
Anthony Erwin



2015-16
Kelly Morrissey



2016-17
Wynette Zuppardi



2017-18
Kristi Jovell



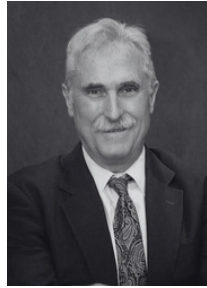
2018-19
Samantha Veeder



2019-20
Marie Johnson



2020-21
Shawn Morrissey



2021-22
James Anderson



2022-23
Anne McDermott



2023-24
Danette Burgess



2024-25
Tayler Kreutter



2025-26
Ken Ferreira

A HISTORY OF THE EASTERN ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS (EASFAA) 1966-2016

The Early Years

In May 1966 at the College Scholarship Service Colloquium in Wisconsin, a group of financial aid officers from the northeast states met with representatives of the Midwestern and Southwestern Associations of Student Financial Aid Administrators to discuss the desirability of establishing such an association in the eastern region. The representatives from the two regions with established associations urged the northeast group to begin such an organization, both to service the needs of aid officers in the region and to set up lines of communication with their state associations and other regional associations.

The structure of the regional association was anticipated as being relatively informal; an organization wherein individual aid officers would meet once a year for one day to discuss common concerns. The annual meetings would be supplemented by local and state meetings within the region to provide better opportunity for discussion of common interests at the discretion of local members, but would not be scheduled by the association. Because of its informal structure the operating costs would be kept at a minimum. Membership would be individual, not institutional with annual dues of around \$2.00 per person. All present at this initial discussion unanimously agreed that such an organization could be extremely useful and desirable. On September 20, 1966 a letter by Roger P. Bernard, Fordham University, was sent to all institutional aid officers within the region. He requested feedback from everyone as to whether they felt this step for regional affiliation was acceptable. In this same letter he suggested that the first meeting could be held at the Fordham University Campus Center on Monday, October 24, 1966.

The meeting was held with 125 financial aid officers present. At this meeting, the association was founded by a unanimous vote. The name for the new association was a principal concern. MASFAA

was already in existence so EASFAA or ESFAA were logical choices. Grant Curtis, Tufts University, felt it should be called Financial Aid Group in Northeast States (FAGINS). Perhaps lamentably, too few appreciated the irony in the style of Dickens so EASFAA won the vote.

By February 27, 1967, 292 individuals had submitted applications for membership to EASFAA and ideas for the first annual meeting were being formulated. On May 22-23, 1967, 300 enthusiastic charter members of the Eastern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators held their first conference at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Albany. The following officers were elected for terms of two years: President Jack B. Critchfield, University of Pittsburgh; President-Elect Peter K. Gunness, Harvard College; Vice-President Sister Mary DeSales OSF, Rosary Hill College; Secretary-Treasurer Donald A. Whitlock, SUNY at Albany; and Corresponding Secretary Grant A. Curtis, Tufts University.

The goals of the association were established. These goals were:

1. To provide a national voice for aid administrators through the National Student Financial Aid Council and the other regional associations,
2. To provide communication among aid administrators, and
3. To foster the professional aspects of aid administration.

It was also established that the annual meetings of EASFAA would always occur in the spring.

During the first year of existence the association developed workshops to help two year colleges establish and manage financial aid offices. "How To..." publications were planned. These publications were designed to cover the various forms and processes, which were necessary between the time a student was offered a loan, and the time the loan was applied to student's bill.

The EASFAA Newsletter had its birth in Medford, Massachusetts and the second annual meeting was planned for May 23-24, 1968 in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

By 1968 a Standing Committee on Needs Analysis and Computations was established. EASFAA conducted its first workshop, which was specifically geared to community colleges and the development of their financial aid offices. State and regional organizations were allowed affiliation with the association. During EASFAA's first years of existence, only individuals were allowed membership.

The year 1969 proved to be a very productive one for EASFAA. The Standing Committee on Federal Relations was established. This was also the year EASFAA became involved with the relatively new National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. EASFAA and the College Board New England Regional Organization (NERO) appointed a joint advisory committee on training. President-Elect and Vice-President titles changed to First Vice-President and Second Vice-President respectively. The duties of the two officers did not change but the First Vice-President would succeed to the presidency only if the President was unable to begin or to complete the two-year term of office. Prior to this the President-Elect automatically succeeded to the presidency. This change would stay in effect until 1979. The Executive Council was enlarged from three members to a representative from each state or group of states. Finally, the Committee on Professional Standards was established. The purpose of this committee was to establish and maintain a professional profile of the EASFAA membership, to make recommendations regarding those areas pertinent to any professional organization, to recommend standards to be approved by and incorporated into the membership of EASFAA, and to make known the professional standards and policies of EASFAA to all participants.

From 1970 to 1973 the critical issues were the reduction in campus based student aid programs by the Nixon Administration and the planning for a new program to be known as the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program. Aid officers were told

they would have no part of the new program. It would go straight from the Federal government to lower income students. Such was not the case.

The Movement To Abolish EASFAA

The year 1972 was a very valuable one for the Association. Some of the members proposed that EASFAA become no more than an ad hoc organization, and that membership to NASFAA be based on state affiliation. The reasons many favored abolishing the organization were:

1. EASFAA leadership did not do much in comparison to other regional organizations,
2. The newsletter was not objective,
3. Total lack of communications within the region, and
4. Lack of a membership roster.

The main supporters of the movement to abolish the Association came from the New York Association who felt they were under-represented on the National Council. EASFAA President, Tom Wadlington, spent most of that year defending the need for EASFAA.

Needless to say, EASFAA remained in existence and in 1973 increased its membership from 350 to 570. The principle reason appeared to be cooperative efforts by NASFAA's Executive Director, Richard "Dick" Tombaugh and EASFAA's Secretary-Treasurer, Robert "Robin" Jaycox.

Since little information was retained, very little can be said of EASFAA between 1974 and 1977. However, sometime during this period, New England felt under-represented in EASFAA and President Marty Lefkovits from New York had to go to the New England states to try to calm the individuals down. The meeting was held at the Public House in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

In 1977, yet another serious threat of a split within EASFAA occurred. The District of Columbia, Delaware and Maryland petitioned NASFAA to allow them to become a separate region with three representatives on the NASFAA Council. NASFAA set up a committee to look into the matter, but the NASFAA Constitution specified that the

organization would have six regional members so a constitutional amendment would have been necessary. An amendment might have reopened the question of the tax-free status of NASFAA and no one wanted that, so the split did not materialize.

Restructuring The Association

A major re-write of the constitution occurred during early 1979, and was adopted during the same year. Elected officers were changed to President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, which conformed to other regional constitutions. The officers were elected annually. The President was limited to one term to be automatically succeeded by the President-Elect. The composition of the Executive Council was changed so that it consisted of elected officers, the immediate Past-President, a designated representative from each state. This gave the District of Columbia, Delaware, and Maryland each one vote rather than just one vote for their tri-state association. Annual dues could now be set by the Executive Council rather than by Constitutional Amendment. Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands were accepted as members of EASFAA. Regular standing committees were established for Nominations and Elections, Research, Professional Development/Training and Placement. In addition to the major revisions in the constitution, the EASFAA Newsletter was increased from the normal four per year to five with updates as necessary.

The 1980'S – A Decade Of Growth

The 1980's proved to be a decade of focus, direction, growth, and frustration. As an association, EASFAA moved into the technical world through computerization and communication enhancements. A new training program was implemented into the form of EASFAA forums. The Association gained tax-exempt status and the membership grew to almost 1,000 members.

In light of the changes in the Federal administration during the early 1980's the Federal Relations Committee was developed. The members found themselves regularly responding to potential

cuts in federal aid and proposed changes in the governing regulations.

A noticeable change was the cessation of the publication: The EASFAA Journal. The first EASFAA Journal was an experiment led by Burt Batty, EASFAA President-Elect and was published in the spring of 1987. The EASFAA Journal provided a format for publishing intellectual documents related to financial aid concerns, perspectives and accomplishments.

At the end of the first quarter-century of providing professional service, EASFAA had become a cohesive association and continued to grow and develop into one of the strongest regional associations.

The 1990'S And Long Range Planning

As EASFAA entered the 1990's, it became very clear that changes needed to be made to meet future challenges. In 1991, a central office was opened in Boston, MA in the offices of the Massachusetts Higher Education Assistance Corporation, and was staffed by MHEAC support staff on a part-time basis. For a variety of reasons the EASFAA Council closed the office in July 1992 and brought back the office's responsibilities to the Council.

Emphasis was placed on organizing the Association through refinement of its policies and procedures manual and making a commitment to long-range planning. EASFAA's strategic long range planning process began in 1991-92, the presidential year of Bill Irwin. George Chin was named chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, and he established the need for a formal long-range plan. In 1992-93, under the presidency of Richelle Emerick, Bob Condon chaired the Strategic Long Range Planning process. The first formal planning document was adopted by the Council and was distributed to the EASFAA membership at the annual conference in May 1993. The document provided for future initiatives, objectives and called for financial stability as well as providing for a systematic approach to annually reviewing and updating the Plan.

In June 1996, at the EASFAA Council retreat, with Doug Bucher as President and Susan Howard as chair of Long Range Strategic Planning, the second phase of the process began. Two days were devoted to the review and discussion of EASFAA's plan. The full Council, with the addition of several past presidents, looked at five major areas that represented the services and then current focus of the organization. The basic premise was to accept EASFAA's mission statement as it was articulated in the first plan and to focus on developing visions of where EASFAA should be headed as an organization. An action plan framework was then written for each of nine areas.

Strategic Planning In The New Century

In the spring of 2001, EASFAA conducted a membership survey, seeking input into various areas of the organization. The results of the survey were tabulated and evaluated. The information was used at the Council retreat, held in June 2001 with Bob Shorb as President and Susan Howard as Chair of Long Range Strategic Planning. Over the course of two days, elected officers, state representatives, committee chairs and past presidents of EASFAA participated in a comprehensive review of where the association was in 2001 and where it needs to place its priorities over the next five years.

At the June 2006 Council leadership retreat the fourth Strategic Plan was discussed with Larry Chambers as President and David Myette and John View as Co-Chairs of the Strategic Long Range Planning Committee.

In the fall of 2011, EASFAA conducted a membership survey, seeking input into various areas of the organization. The results of the survey were compiled and used for discussion at the Council retreat held in June 2012 with Cathy Patella as President and Bill Cheetham as Chair of the Strategic Long Range Planning Committee. The fifth Strategic plan resulted in the need to go to a three year (2012-15) plan approach as more non-profit organizations are needing to update their plans sooner under the rapidly changing world.

The specific areas covered by the 2012-15 Strategic plan are: training and professional development, advocacy and public policy, fiscal strength and planning, volunteer and leadership development, serving all potential members, communication, governance and planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Each year the EASFAA Council reviews the plan as it prepares for each upcoming twelve months, taking into account what has been and what still needs to be accomplished according to the Strategic Plan. The Plan remains a valuable planning tool to the continued success and future direction of the Association. The next three year Plan will be discussed at the 2016 Council Leadership Retreat.

The "New" Newsletter And Changing Communication

The Association's newsletter continued to be a major method of communication to the membership. The content and frequency of publication increased in the 1990's going through a variety of changes in format and quality of publication. In 1997, the name of the newsletter changed to the EASFAA Quarterly Connection with a publication schedule of four times annually. In 2000, the newsletter was available in paper and on-line format providing faster delivery to the membership. In 2005, the newsletter became available only as an on-line publication allowing for major cost reductions. In 2011, the newsletter was discontinued and the organization moved to periodic messaging and Website posting of news and updates.

Notices of employment opportunities throughout the financial aid community appeared as a regular service to the membership in the newsletter. Starting in 1998, jobs were advertised via the Association's list serv in response to the need to have advertisements appear sooner than every three months in the printed newsletter. In 2004, jobs were advertised directly on the Association's Web site.

In the latter part of the 1990's, advertisements increased due to a more concentrated effort to seek sponsorship from EASFAA's vendors and more competition for business among the market place. The onset of the Association's Web site changed the face of advertising and sponsorship.

Movement To Electronic Communication

EASFAA's Web site (www.easfaa.org) started in 1997 under a contract with ATAC Corporation and the Association. EASFAA was one of the first financial aid associations to establish a site on the Internet. The Web site allows for providing membership services in a much more efficient and comprehensive manner. EASFAA's membership directory is only available on-line, can be downloaded for those members who want a printed directory and is easily updated by members on a daily basis.

An increased emphasis was placed on the recognition of membership service to the Association. This emphasis resulted in a formal process for service and leadership recognition within the Association at the annual conferences.

In 2012, EASFAA started a Facebook page. In 2014, the EASFAA blog "The EASFAA Exchange" was started.

Fiscal Concerns

Fiscal stability of the Association was always a concern. This complex and political topic is delicately dealt with in the Long Range Strategic Plan by recommending that the Council strive for a balanced approach that would provide for a planned growth in fiscal reserves while keeping fees charged to members at reasonable levels. The major sources of revenue continue to be the annual conference, vendor/sponsor support, membership dues and training activities.

The security of the Association's financial resources was questioned after the discovery of embezzlement of Association funds by the 1997-98 Treasurer. Under the leadership of President George Chin, the Association survived the

negative impact of the unauthorized expenditures. Executive Council instituted a number of fiscal procedures to secure the future administration of the Association's financial resources and set an example for other regional and state associations to institute fiscal safeguards. Prosecution and restitution was sought from the 1997-98 Treasurer as well as restitution from the financial institutions holding the Association's bank and credit accounts. The 1997-98 Treasurer only served a small jail term for failure to pay court costs, was sentenced to a lengthy probation period, and provided a minimal amount of restitution. The Association did receive about one-quarter (after attorney costs) in restitution from the financial institutions. In addition, the Association in 2001 amended its bylaws to provide for a Past Treasurer position to assist each newly elected treasurer. The Association was able to bounce back from the 1997-98 losses especially through the help of its members and support by sponsors.

In 2006 after the "student loan scandal" a major source of revenue through vendor/sponsor support dramatically changes along with declining attendance at annual conferences. EASFAA retooled its finances to be able to continue offering its membership the same services for training via Webinar programs, leadership development and conference programs that offered more choice of session topics. Although the number of EASFAA members declined after the loss of major revenue support, operations continue to meet the needs of the membership and fulfill EASFAA's mission. Today the Association enjoys a stable financial base.

EASFAA Involvement At The National Level

EASFAA continues to be a strong force within the national and federal financial aid communities. Eight of EASFAA's former presidents have become National Chairs of NASFAA, the national association:

Grant Curtis, EASFAA President 1969-71,
NASFAA President, 1971-72;

Joe Sciame, EASFAA President 1986-87,
NASFAA Chair 1987-88;

Bill Irwin, EASFAA President 1991-92,

NASFAA Chair 1995-96;

Irvin Bodofsky, EASFAA President 1990-91,
NASFAA Chair 1999-2000;

Rachael Lohman, EASFAA President 1994-95,
NASFAA Chair 2000-01;

Dave Myette, EASFAA President 1997-98,
NASFAA Chair 2003-04;

George Chin, EASFAA President 1998-99,
NASFAA Chair 2004-05; and

Michael Bennett, EASFAA President 1999-2000,
NASFAA Chair 2007-08.

Eileen O’Leary served as NASFAA Chair 2014-15
and,

In addition, Kristi Jovell, EASFAA President
2018-19, NASFAA chair 2024-25

Many of EASFAA’s members have served in various capacities with NASFAA as staff, board and committee members, elected officers, and volunteers. Members have also served at the U.S. Department of Education as consultants, trainers, advisory board members, various and numerous committee members.

Annual Conferences

The annual conference, a very popular event year-in and year-out, is held every May within one of EASFAA’s member states on a rotating basis. The agenda reflects the needs and desires of the membership and is attended by a third of the membership. Training was and continues to be an important service of EASFAA. EASFAA fills unique training niches in the areas of graduate and professional student concerns, multicultural diversity student concerns and technology initiatives.

Leadership Development

The need to develop future leaders in the Association and among its state member associations surfaced in the 2000’s as the

Association struggled with getting volunteers and members to hold elected and appointed positions. In 2000, EASFAA started the first mentor program pairing new members to seasoned members to get their involvement in the Association through the Mentoring Committee. In 2002, the first mentor scholars (one member from each State association within the Region) were sponsored by the Association to attend their first Association conference and become involved in an Association volunteer capacity. The Association has benefited from this investment as former mentors are serving in different volunteer positions for the Association. The annual sponsoring of mentors ended in 2005 with the mentor program being evaluated for its effectiveness and how it should be structured in the future. Today the mentoring of future leaders of the organization and profession in general continues through the work of the Leadership and Development Committee.

2016-17

EASFAA Federal Relations Committee in conjunction with Tri-state Federal Relations committee held 36 meetings with members of the Senate and House committee members and Appropriations subcommittee

Electronic Initiatives Committee and Social Media are combined into Technology and Communications Committee by approval of Council in November 2015

There was a training series called Annual Topic.

2017-18

EASFAA adds its name to letter written by American Council on Education (ACE) to members of Congress in support of the continuation of the Perkins Loan Program.

EASFAA names its webinars schedule as Tuesdays @ 2 allowing for ease of members to know that webinars are consistently on the same day of the week and time.

Council approves the EASF AA Hurricane Relief Fund to assist PRASF AA colleagues impacted by Hurricane Maria. EASF AA agreed to match donations received up to \$3,000; NASF AA agreed to match EASF AA's donation, and the remainder was from any donor. \$10,000 was raised.

2018-19

The annual EASF AA Conference was held in Portland ME for the fifth time (1978, 1989, 1997, 2008, 2019) making the most frequented city for an annual conference.

Multicultural Committee name changed to Diversity and Inclusion Committee with focus on increasing membership by working closely with the Training and Membership Committees.

Federal Relations Committee sends letter to the Department of Education after meeting with representatives from the Office of Student Assistance outlining its concerns including FSA ID, Mobile App roll out, verification, ISIR Codes 400/401, IRS data retrieval issues, and other systems need for improvement.

EASF AA created a Twitter account managed by the Technology and Communications Committee.

2019-20

Conference scheduled for May 3-6, 2020, in Manchester, NH, was suddenly cancelled in March 2020 due to nationwide shutdown because of COVID-19 pandemic. Given the suddenness of the situation, there was no time to prepare a virtual conference.

During this challenging time, EASF AA responds by moving to leverage virtual meetings and webinars.

2019-20 the first year an Institutional Membership category added as an option for association membership. Samantha Veeder championed the change to the EASF AA bylaws with data and research after seeing similar success from EASF AA state member PASF AA.

Membership numbers increased as a result from 720 members in February 2020 to the March 2026 current level of 2000 members. The purpose of moving to an institutional membership was to increase involvement in EASF AA without significantly impacting the Association budget while providing incentives for institutions to have more staff members become EASF AA members.

EASF AA's host website moves from ATAC Corporation to MemberClicks. This change was led by an ad hoc committee under then President Marie Johnson's council.

2020-21

In-person conference scheduled for Mystic, CT was cancelled due to COVID-19. It was replaced with a virtual conference provided at no charge to members. Despite this challenge there were 355 registrants for the virtual event. A total of 6 presentations via webinars were provided by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, exceeding the planned goal. 4 provided by EASF AA Leads.

EASF AA unveils "Job Posting Newsletter," allowing for an email to members in a digest of current job listings available.

Members positively responded to the challenges resulting from the were forced to deal with The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) that was established by the U.S. Department of Education in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to support postsecondary institutions and students facing financial hardship.

2021-22

Out of a sense of precaution and safety attendees self-identify if they have been COVID vaccinated.

Under then President Jim Anderson, Sector Interest Committee is created to ensure voices of all sectors of educational institutions are served –community colleges, four-year public, four-year private, for-profit colleges, and the graduate/professional sector – and give colleagues opportunities to learn about how business is done at different types of institutions.

Membership dues for the 2021-22 year reduced by 50% to recognize challenges to membership because of COVID-19. New Diversity Equality and Inclusion statement put on website expanding definition of diversity based in part on the Title V11 of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Replaced prior version which focused on EASFAA’s support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

EASFAA updates its mission statement as part of the Strategic Plan.

EASFAA offers 3 NASFAA Credential tests, Tuesdays @ 2 program offered 15 webinars.

2022-23

The EASFAA Annual Conference 2023 took place May 14–17, 2023 in Manchester, NH. This is the first time the association’s annual conference was held in the state of New Hampshire.

EASFAA LEADS and EASFAA CONNECTS become their own committees. EASFAA LEADS is a professional development series meant to enhance the training experience for its members. EASFAA CONNECTS provides mentoring opportunities for both mentors and mentees.

EASFAA CONNECTS provides book for the cohort involved in mentoring program.

EASFAA LEADS provides seven webinars and in-person one-on-one session. Motion is passed to rescind 1981 motion to never have the conference on Mother’s Day weekend as the annual conferences for 2023 and 2024 began on this holiday. Future conference scheduling to avoid beginning of a holiday.

Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 approved. Howard Leslie Chair and Anne McDermott President.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee offers 5 D/I sessions through Tuesdays @ 2 Credential Testing Committee had 8 sessions

2023-24

2023-24 Conference held in Wilmington, DE

HBCU and MSI Committees were created as ad hoc to promote Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions as well as increasing membership, participation and programming related to HBCU and MSI concerns.

NASFAA Credential Training Sessions provided.

FAFSA Simplification – FAOs begin to prepare for implementation: Financial Wellness Committee provides one session via Tuesdays @ 2 format. Sector Interest Committee held separate round table discussions for participants to share how they were preparing.

Tuesdays @ 2 provides 13 webinars. Federal Relations committee holds webinar on NASFAA Advocacy Pipeline, and two listening sessions.

Association Governance Committee, Compliance Committee is resurrected and added as ad hoc.

2024-25

FAFSA Simplification begins in the 2024-2025 cycle with significant changes and delays that impact students and institutions.

Under President Tayler Kreutter, changes made to create efficiencies to reduce costs while keeping council informed, aligned and engaged. Some of these included reductions of the number of committees, monthly meetings of the president, current past president, and president-elect, executive council, and regional council members.

Kristi Jovell, former EASFAA president serves as the 2024-2025 NASFAA Chair.

2025-26

60th Anniversary Conference to be held in Philadelphia, PA.

Under President Ken Ferreria, EASFAA moves toward greater transparency and communication to memberships. Begins to provide videos promoting monthly council meetings outcomes to members, e-mail communications about EASFAA involvement in national and regional news.

Membership year changes to align with EASFAA tax year (July 1 – June 30) thus eliminating accounting challenges and ability for individuals not to be members to register for the annual conference.

By-laws updated to include the Committee for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) as one of six standing committees. The DEIB responsibilities shall include the development, administration, and support of initiatives that further EASFAA's mission by fostering an inclusive professional community where everyone is welcomed, and every member feels a sense of belonging.

Strategic Plan for 2025-2028 approved.

In Summary

The Association has succeeded in becoming an effective voice in the financial aid world as evidenced by its leadership and members' participation at the national and federal levels.

The Web site, which includes The EASFAA Exchange and the EASFAA Membership Directory, remains as the best way to provide quick and efficient communication to the membership. Planning, as always, has become the foundation for success and has been inextricably entwined in the annual Executive Council leadership retreat through the review of the Association's current Strategic Plan and every three years with the establishment of a new Plan.

Having matured as a viable and effective professional association EASFAA has achieved 60 years of providing quality service as it had intended in 1966. As a mature association, it can look with pride at its accomplishments and face the future with confidence in the knowledge that it has the leadership, membership and community support to continue to provide quality service to its many constituents.

EASFAA PRESIDENTS

The entire EASFAA membership would like to recognize those individuals who served the EASFAA members as President. These individuals provided the leadership and vision which established a firm foundation for our region to reach new heights each year. A special thank you for all you have done for EASFAA.

1967-68	Jack Critchfield	1999-00	Michael Bennett
1968-69	Peter Gunness	2000-01	Pamela Gilligan
1969-71	Grant Curtis	2001-02	Robert D. Shorb
1971-73	Thomas Wadlington	2002-03	Susan Allen
1973-75	John Madigan	2003-04	Christine Zuzack
1975-77	Martin Lefkovits	2004-05	Thomas Dalton
1977-79	Marcia Pond Gardiner	2005-06	Susan Howard
1979-80	Arthur Fritz	2006-07	Larry Chambers
1980-81	Richard Black	2007-08	William Cheetham
1981-82	Douglas MacDonald	2008-09	Gordon Koff
1982-83	Micheileen Doran Treadwell	2009-10	Barbara Miller
1983-84	Renee Saleh	2010-11	Neville Brown
1984-85	Robert Condon	2011-12	Richard Heath
1985-86	P. Jerome Cunningham	2012-13	Cathleen Patella
1986-87	Joseph Sciame	2013-14	Brian Lemma
1987-88	Burt Batty	2014-15	Anthony Erwin
1988-89	Arthur James	2015-16	Kelly Morrissey
1989-90	Arthur Jackson	2016-17	Wynette Zuppari
1990-91	Irvin Bodofsky	2017-18	Kristi Jovell
1991-92	William Irwin	2018-19	Samantha Veeder
1992-93	Richelle Emerick	2019-20	Marie Johnson
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1996-97	Douglas Bucher	2023-24	Danette Burgess
1997-98	David Myette	2024-25	Taylor Kreutter
1998-99	George Chin	2025-26	Ken Ferreira

EASFAA CONFERENCE SITES

1967 Albany, NY	1998 Washington, DC
1968 New Brunswick, NJ	1999 Dorado, PR
1969 Boston, MA	2000 Ledyard, CT
1970 Philadelphia, PA	2001 Baltimore, MD
1971 Washington, DC	2002 Boston, MA
1972 Providence, RI	2003 Hershey, PA
1973 Philadelphia, PA	2004 Providence, RI
1974 Hyannis, MA	2005 Atlantic City, NJ
1975 Cherry Hill, NJ	2006 Burlington, VT
1976 Ocean City, MD	2007 Niagara Falls, NY
1977 Albany, NY	2008 Portland, ME
1978 Portland, ME	2009 Washington, DC
1979 Hershey, PA	2010 Uncasville, CT
1980 Washington, DC	2011 Philadelphia, PA
1981 Hartford, CT	2012 Baltimore, MD
1982 San Juan, PR	2013 Boston, MA
1983 Newport, RI	2014 Fajardo, PR
1984 Philadelphia, PA	2015 Newport, RI
1985 Boston, MA	2016 Atlantic City, NJ
1986 Baltimore, MD	2017 Burlington, VT
1987 Buffalo, NY	2018 Bolton Landing, NY
1988 Hartford, CT	2019 Portland, ME
1989 Portland, ME	2020 Manchester, NH*
1990 Philadelphia, PA	<i>(*cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic)</i>
1991 Newport, RI	2021 Mystic, CT*
1992 San Juan, PR	<i>(*virtual due to COVID-19 pandemic)</i>
1993 Baltimore, MD	2022 Baltimore, MD
1994 Atlantic City, NJ	2023 Manchester, NH
1995 Burlington, VT	2024 Wilmington, DE
1996 Bolton Landing, NY	2025 Foxwoods, CT
1997 Portland, ME	2026 Philadelphia, PA

EASFAA HISTORICAL FIRSTS, MOMENTS AND DATES

1966 Unanimous vote of 125 aid officers to establish what will become EASFAA

1967 First conference held in Albany, New York attended by 300 members

1967 First newsletter published

1968 First committee established

1968 First workshop sponsored

1970 Job placement service for any aid officer in the region

1972 Movement to abolish association

1973 500 Members

1975 Dissension between New England and Mid-Atlantic states

1976 First Association logo – A Map of the States

1977 DC, Delaware and Maryland petition to secede and become a separate region.

1977 Job placement service only for members

1979 Major rewrite of constitution, president term of office from two to one year

1979 Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands added to full regional membership

1981 1000 members

1982 Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer Terms of office from one to two years

1984 Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

1984 By-laws adopted

1987 First EASFAA Journal published

1988 IRS grants income tax exemption status

1991 Opening of Central Office in Boston

1991 25th Anniversary Conference held in Newport, Rhode Island

1992 Closing of Central Office in Boston

1992 First Strategic Plan

1992 Individual membership dues are \$50 for first time

1996 Second Strategic Plan

1997 EASFAA's Website started under contract with ATAC Corporation

1997 Newsletter becomes Quarterly Connection published on a quarterly basis

1998 Jobs advertised via the association's list serv

2000 First Graduate Symposium

2000 First Mentor Program begins

2001 Third Strategic Plan

2001 Past Treasurer Officer established

2002 New Association Logo – EASFAA with State Abbreviations around Perimeter

2002 First Electronic Balloting

2002 First Official Privacy Statement

2002 First Mentor Scholarships awarded to attend Conference

2002 First time over 800 members attend Conference

2004 Jobs advertised directly on the Web

2005 Quarterly Connection becomes an on-line only publication

2005 1500 members

2006 40th anniversary conference held in Burlington, Vermont

2007 Fourth Strategic Plan

2007 Leadership and Development Committee established

2007 First Anti-Discrimination Policy

2010 Council votes to propose changing from individual to institutional membership

2010 First annual National Financial Aid Day third Wednesday of October

2011 Council tables changing to institutional membership due to by-law inconsistencies

2011 Last Quarterly Connection

2012 Fifth Strategic Plan

2012 EASFAA Facebook page begins

2014 The EASFAA Exchange (blog) begins

2016 50th anniversary conference held in Atlantic City, New Jersey

EASFAA HISTORICAL FIRSTS, MOMENTS AND DATES

2017 EASFAA Federal Relations Committee in conjunction with Tri-state Federal Relations committee held 36 meetings with members of the Senate and House committee members and Appropriations subcommittee

2018 EASFAA Twitter page begins

2019 6th Strategic Plan

2020 Annual conference scheduled for Manchester, NH cancelled unexpectedly due to COVID pandemic

2020 Institutional Membership category added as an option for Association membership

2020 EASFAA's host website moves from ATAC Corporation to MemberClicks

2021 Annual Conference scheduled for Mystic, CT cancelled and replaced with a virtual conference due to COVID pandemic at no charge to members

2021 Ad hoc Sector Interest committee created

2021 Council votes that membership dues for the 2021-22 year reduced by 50% to recognize financial challenges to members because of COVID pandemic.

2023 Annual Conference took place Manchester, NH – the first time in the Association's history that the annual conference was held New Hampshire

2025 7th Strategic Plan

2025 EASFAA launches #easfaa-region Slack channel

2026 Committee for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) as one of six standing committees in by-laws

2026 Membership year changes to align with EASFAA tax year (July 1 – June 30)

2026 60th anniversary conference held in Philadelphia, PA

EASFAA AWARDS

Life Membership (Honorary Life Membership)

EASFAA's **highest award** is given to individuals who have made an outstanding and sustained contribution to student financial aid. Awarded upon approval of a majority of the Regional Council, given at the annual conference.

Nominations

may be made by any member of the Association. Nominations are reviewed by the EASFAA Awards Committee. (Honorary Life Membership applies to individuals who are not eligible to be regular members of the Association.)

Life Membership Recipients

- 2025 - Howard Leslie, Maribeth Quinn
- 2024 - Jim Anderson, Catherine Boscher-Murphy, Allene Begley Curto
- 2023 - David Sheridan, Rachel Lohman, David Myette
- 2022 - Neville Brown, Odette Franceskino, Larry Chambers
- 2021 - Tom Dalton
- 2020 - Suzy Allen
- 2018 - Rich Heath, Barbara Miller, John View
- 2017 - Christine Zuzack
- 2016 - Robert Shorb, Joseph Roberto
- 2015 - Heather McDonnell
- 2014 - Jeff Baker
- 2012 - Daniel Madzellan
- 2011 - Yvonne Gittens
- 2010 - Michael Bennett
- 2009 - Sammy Rivera
- 2008 - Kathleen Smith
- 2007 - Irvin Bodofsky, George Chin
- 2006 - Senator James Jeffords
- 2005 - Senator Claiborne Pell, William Irwin
- 2003 - Congressman William Goodling
- 1995 - Joseph Sciamè
- 1994 - Maria DeJesus, Dallas Martin

Distinguished Service Award

Given to individuals who have made significant contributions to **EASFAA through leadership, activities, and/or research in financial aid.**

Recognizes service to the Association over a period of professional involvement, not a single event or activity.

Awarded no more often than once a year at the annual conference. Awarded only at such times as a suitable recipient is clearly identified. Nominations may be made by any member of the Association. Nominations are reviewed by a committee consisting of the immediate past president, the president-elect, and the vice president. One or more names may be recommended to the Regional Council. Approval by a majority vote of the Council necessary to give the award. (This award is not intended as recognition for EASFAA officers for their service in office alone.)

Distinguished Service Award Recipients

- 2025 - Jim Anderson
- 2024 - Robert Weinerman
- 2023 - Katrina Delgrosso, Marie Johnson
- 2022 - David Sheridan
- 2021 - Sam Veeder
- 2020 - Wynette Zuppari
- 2019 - Tom Dalton
- 2018 - Larry Chambers
- 2017 - Tony Erwin
- 2016 - Neville Brown, Odette Franceskino
- 2015 - Richard Heath
- 2014 - Allene Curto
- 2013 - Barbara Williams
- 2012 - William Cheetham, Barbara Miller
- 2011 - Betty Davis
- 2010 - Christine Zuzack
- 2009 - Michael McGraw
- 2008 - Susan Howard, Richard Woodland
- 2007 - Susan Allen
- 2006 - Robert D. Shorb
- 2005 - Larry Zaglaniczny
- 2004 - John View
- 2003 - David Myette
- 2002 - George Chin
- 2001 - Michael Bennett
- 1999 - Irvin Bodofsky
- 1998 - Russell Woodward
- 1997 - Rachael Lohman
- 1996 - William Irwin
- 1995 - Pamela Gilligan
- 1994 - Robert Condon

EASFAA AWARDS *CONTINUED*

Leadership Award

May be given annually to recognize individual(s) who has (have) **provided outstanding leadership to the Association or to an Association activity in the preceding year.** Given at the annual conference. Nominees are determined by the Executive Committee and State Representatives and one or more names may be submitted to the Regional Council. Recipient(s) must be approved by a majority vote of the Council. (This award is not intended to recognize the President of the Association for his/her year in Office.)

Leadership Award Recipients

- 2025 - Gena Boling
- 2024 - Doug Wilson
- 2023 - Tanya Patterson-Stanley
- 2022 - Rich Neilsen
- 2021 - Julie Lawton
- 2020 - Tisa Silver Canady, Danette Burgess
- 2019 - Pat Johnson
- 2018 - Cheryl DePaolis, Marie Johnson
- 2017 - Brian Lemma
- 2016 - James Murphy
- 2015 - Wynette Zuppari
- 2014 - Samantha Veeder
- 2013 - Odette Franceskino
- 2012 - Neville Brown, Dawn Mosisa
- 2011 - Maribeth Quinn
- 2010 - Gisele Joachim
- 2009 - Mila Tappan
- 2008 - Anne Barton
- 2007 - Barbara Miller
- 2006 - Cathleen Patella
- 2005 - Sandy Brown, David Manning
- 2004 - Larry Chambers, Elena Garcia
- 2003 - Robert D. Shorb, Holly Zaglanczny
- 2002 - Susan Howard
- 2001 - Christine A. Zuzack
- 2000 - John View, Richard Woodland
- 1999 - Susan Allen
- 1998 - Ben Carey
- 1997 - Michael Bennett
- 1996 - David Myette
- 1995 - Douglas Bucher
- 1994 - John Skarr
- 1994 - Rachael Lohman
- 1994 - Francine Andrea

Outstanding Volunteer Award

Awarded to recognize individual(s) for outstanding **service performed to our Association as a non-elected volunteer.** Nominees are determined by the Executive Committee and State Representatives and one or more names submitted to the Regional Council. Recipient(s) must be approved by a majority vote of the Council.

Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients

- 2025 - Mika Lim
- 2024 - Jason Kahn
- 2023 - Catherine Boscher-Murphy
- 2022 - Krysta Gingue
- 2021 - Maureen Fagen
- 2020 - Rich Neilsen
- 2019 - Adrienne Montgomery
- 2018 - Julie Lawton, Kevin Mahaney
- 2017 - Gregory Davis
- 2016 - Maribeth Quinn
- 2015 - Nasim Keshavarz
- 2014 - Jeff Bentley
- 2013 - Kristi Jovell
- 2012 - Gretchen Bonfardine, Rachel Brinkley Smith
- 2011 - Odette Franceskino
- 2010 - Heather McDonnell
- 2009 - Brian Lemma
- 2008 - Neville Brown
- 2007 - Gordon Koff
- 2006 - Francine Andrea
- 2005 - David Sheridan
- 2004 - Joseph Roberto
- 2003 - Dadizi Baker-Cummings
- 2002 - Howard Entin, Barbara Miller
- 2001 - Matthew Spina
- 1999 - Gary Spoales
- 1998 - Christine Zuzack
- 1997 - Sharon Austin-Hassan
- 1996 - Anna Breland
- 1995 - Russell Woodward
- 1994 - Dadizi Baker-Cummings

EASFAA RECOGNITIONS

President's Recognition for Service to the Association

Given at the discretion of the president to recognize service to the Association within a given year by officers, committee chairs, committee members, or others. Presented at the annual conference. (Such recognition does not preclude receipt of an Association Award.)

President's Recognition for Service to the Association Recipients

- 2025 - Rich Neilsen
- 2024 - Shawn Morrissey, Tisa Silver-Canady
- 2023 - Tanya Patterson-Stanley
- 2022 - Douglas Wilson
- 2021 - Danette Burgess
- 2020 - Kat Delgrosso
- 2019 - Ashley Bianchi, Cheryl DePaolis
- 2018 - Tom Dalton
- 2017 - Cheryl DePaolis
- 2016 - Dawn Lowe
- 2015 - Larry Chambers
- 2014 - Maribeth Quinn
- 2013 - Wynette Zuppardi
- 2012 - Brian Lemma
- 2011 - Barbara Miller, John View
- 2010 - David Manning, Cathleen Patella
- 2009 - Richard Heath
- 2008 - Larry Chambers, James Murphy
- 2007 - Susan Howard
- 2006 - Irvin Bodofsky
- 2005 - Eleanor A. Kelly
- 2004 - Mary Miller
- 2003 - Rachael Lohman
- 2002 - David Sheridan
- 2001 - Ernestine Whiting-Settles
- 2000 - Susan Allen, Joseph R. Roberto
- 1999 - David Myette
- 1998 - Kathleen Smith
- 1997 - Robert D. Shorb
- 1996 - Sue Butler
- 1995 - Andrea Cross
- 1994 - Pamela Gilligan

Committee Recognition

Given at the discretion of the president to any committee(s) of the Association determined to have made an outstanding contribution to the activities of the Association within a particular year. Given at the annual conference

Committee Recognition Recipients

- 2025 - Committee at Large: Mika Lim, Justin Welliver, Kendrick Myles, Jaron Tucker, Doug Wilson, Asia Taj, Naglaa Gaafar Rego
- 2024 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee: Tanya Patterson Stanley, chair
- Federal Relations: Gena Boling, chair
- 2023 - EASFAA Connects: Jim Anderson and Julie Lawton, co-chairs
- 2022 - Strategic Planning Committee: Howard Leslie, chair
- 2021 - Training Committee: Maureen Fagen and Shannon Gallagher, co-chairs
- 2020 - Conference Committee: Julie Lawton and David Sheridan, co-chairs
- 2019 - Conference Committee: Wynette Zuppardi and Tom Dalton, co-chairs
- 2018 - Training Committees: Ashley Bianchi Chair of EASFAA Leads, Philip Hawkins Chair of EASFAA Credentials, Brian Lemma Chair of Tuesdays@2, Ashley Ruszczyk Chair of Annual Training
- 2017 - Training Committee: Maribeth Quinn, Chair
- 2016 - Leadership and Mentoring: James Murphy, Chair
- 2015 - Multicultural Diversity Committee: Marie Johnson, Chair
- 2015 - Multicultural Diversity, Marie Johnson, Chair
- 2014 - Training, Larry Chambers and Kristi Jovell, Co-Chairs
- 2013 - Social Media, Crystal Finefrock and Nasim Keshavarz, Co-Chairs
- 2012 - Federal Relations, Dawn Mosisa and Rachel Brinkley Smith, Co-Chairs
- 2011 - Conference, Odette Franceskino and Wynette Zuppardi, Co-Chairs
- 2011 - Vendor Relations, Kimber Decker and David Manning, Co-Chairs
- 2011 - Leadership, Mila Tappan and Dominic Yoia, Co-Chairs
- 2010 - Multicultural Diversity, Barbara Williams, Chair

EASFAA RECOGNITIONS *CONTINUED*

- 2009 – Conference, Brian Lemma, Chair
- 2008 – Federal Relations, Pierre Alric and Irvin Bodofsky, Co-Chairs
- 2008 – Graduate & Professional Concerns, Odette Franceskino, Chair
- 2007 – Newsletter, Anne Playe, Chair
- 2006 – Graduate & Professional Concerns, Michelle Chamley and Richard Woodland, Co-Chairs
- 2005 – Membership, Beth C. Turner, Chair
- 2004 – Conference, Mary Miller, Chair
- 2004 – Training, Kenneth Ferreira, Chair
- 2003 – Electronic Initiatives, Howard Entin, Chair
- 2002 – Newsletter, Kenneth Ferreira, Chair
- 2001 – Multicultural Diversity, Elena Garcia, Chair
- 2000 – Conference, Douglas Bucher, Chair
- 2000 – Development, Timothy Balfour, Chair
- 1999 – Conference, Daniel Hunter, Chair
- 1998 – Conference, Betty Davis, Chair
- 1997 – Training, James Tilton, Chair
- 1996 – Non-Traditional Concerns, Evelyn DeStio, Chair
- 1995 – Development, Gary Spoales, Chair
- 1994 – Training, Janet Finello and Jolene Mitchell, Co-Chairs

Outstanding State Representative

This award is given at the discretion of the President to one of the state representatives currently serving on EASFAA Council and is in recognition of **outstanding service and support for the goals and objectives of EASFAA at the state level**. This recognition does not preclude receipt of any other Association Award. It is given at the annual conference.

Outstanding State Representative Recipients

- 2025 - Patti Beers, New York; Tanner Matchus, Vermont
- 2024 - Alex Guiral, New Jersey; Carmen Rivera-Laboy, Puerto Rico
- 2023 - Will O'Shea, Maine

- 2022 - Asia Taj, New Jersey
- 2021 - Howard Leslie, New York
- 2020 - Carmen Rivera-Laboy, Puerto Rico
- 2019 - Anne McDermott, Rhode Island
- 2018 - Danette Burgess, District of Columbia
- 2017 - Alex Muro, Connecticut
- 2016 - Kerrie Cooper, New York
- 2015 – Gregory Davis, Vermont
- 2014 – Patrice Shoemaker, Tri-State
- 2013 – Daniel Tramuta, New York
- 2012 – Ninfa Mueller, New Jersey
- 2011 – Gail Holt, Massachusetts
- 2010 – Michelle Chamley, Vermont
- 2009 – Nasim Keshavarz, Maryland
- 2008 – John Giordano, Connecticut
- 2007 – Maribeth Quinn, New Jersey
- 2006 – Clinton Hanson, New Hampshire
- 2005 – Mila D. Tappan, Maine
- 2004 – Anne Barton, New York

NASFAA Regional Leadership Awards for EASFAA Members Recipients

- 2015 – Larry Chambers
- 2014 – Richard Heath
- 2013 – Barbara Miller
- 2012 – Robert D. Shorb
- 2011 – Mary Miller
- 2010 – Cathleen Patella
- 2009 – Michael McGraw
- 2008 – Susan Howard
- 2007 – David Sheridan
- 2006 – Susan Allen
- 2005 – Richard Woodland
- 2004 – Yvonne Gittens
- 2003 – Michael Bennett
- 2002 – John Curtice
- 2001 – Christine Zuzack
- 2000 – David Myette
- 1999 – Rachel Lohman
- 1998 – William Irwin
- 1997 – George Chin
- 1996 – Richelle Emerick
- 1995 – Joe Paul Case
- 1994 – John View
- 1993 – Joseph Sciamie
- 1992 – Maria DeJesus
- 1991 – Burt Batty
- 1990 – Marcia Pond Gardiner
- 1989 – Renee Saleh

SEE YOU AT THE
ONE HUNDREDTH
IN 2066!

