



Vermont Association of Student
Financial Aid Administrators



TOGETHER
Towards Tomorrow

2023 VASFAA Conference

Winooski, VT - June 8, 2023

Dear VASFAA Colleagues:

VASFAA and the financial aid community are going through a lot right now and I am thankful to have the opportunity to gather in person, connect and support each other. As we brace for the changes ahead it will be more important than ever to gather, learn, and grow together.

I appreciate the efforts of our conference committee to plan our conference while juggling all of their other responsibilities. I am grateful to our membership for their willingness to share information, tools, and time with us to help us sustain our association.

VASFAA's roots are deep and together we will continue our long tradition of serving as champions for our students and our institutions.

Welcome, and enjoy,

Marie Johnson

VASFAA President

Agenda

Time	Session	Presenter
8:30 - 9:15	Registration/Breakfast	
9:15 - 9:30	Opening/Welcome	Marie Johnson
9:30 - 10:30	College Affordability – Making it Work in Vermont	Panel discussion with Marie Johnson (UVM), Marilyn Cargill (VSAC), and Tanner Matchus (CCV)
10:30 - 10:45	Break	
10:45 -11:45	Trauma-Informed Practices: Supporting Students of Concern	Erica Victoria and Joe Russell
11:45 - 12:45	Lunch	
12:45 - 1:15	VASF AA Business Meeting	Marie Johnson
1:15 - 2:15	Academic Calendars – Basics for Title IV Eligibility	Kristi Jovell and Marianne Werner
2:15 - 2:30	Break	
2:30 - 3:00	Federal and State Update	Scott Giles
3:00 - 3:15	Break	
3:15 - 4:15	Networking and Ice Cream Social	
4:15 - 4:30	Closing	Tanner Matchus

Session Descriptions

College Affordability – Making it Work in Vermont

We all know the usual suspects for paying for college, grants, loans, and scholarships. But what else is happening across this state to reduce the cost of college. What new initiatives are in place to help retain exist students? To help ensure students graduate on time? What new funding mechanisms are being used and how do they work? Join us for panel discussion of new and innovative ways to make college more affordable for students of all ages. CCV, UVM, and VSAC will kick off the conversation with new programs that they are working with and invite the members of the audience to share what's happening on their campuses.

Trauma-Informed Practices: Supporting Students of Concern

College students face increasingly difficult academic, social, societal, and internal pressures throughout their time in school. The impact of trauma – whether it is interpersonal, community, intergenerational, and/or historical trauma – is felt by college students in real and profound ways. Multiply marginalized students are even more at risk for experiencing the impacts of trauma. More and more, staff far outside the college counseling center are being asked to help identify and support students who may be struggling. This presentation will help participants learn trauma-informed practices for appropriately identifying, supporting, and resourcing students who have experienced trauma (primarily with a focus on how this happens in the context of student financial aid advising). We will explore current mental health trends and challenges in today's college student population and understand some of the factors that contribute to students' experiences of traumatic stress. The presentation will also review how university staff and faculty can incorporate trauma-informed practices into every aspect of their work, creating a genuine culture change that recognizes and responds effectively to trauma. We will learn how to successfully partner with and refer students to campus and community resources as part of a campus-wide and interdisciplinary approach to student success.

Session Descriptions

Academic Calendars – Basics for Title IV Eligibility

Is academic innovation happening on your campus that may impact how you award aid? Understanding federal student aid requirements for defining an academic year and academic calendar for degree programs is a necessary first step in administering Title IV financial aid which then determines how aid must be awarded. We will provide an overview of the basic requirements and how to review your existing programs as well as new programs proposed at your institution. Requirements for certificate programs will also be discussed.

Federal and State Update

Hear the latest about what's happening at the national level and in the Vermont legislature as it pertains to the work we do in financial aid, higher education, and as Vermonters and those who serve Vermonters.

Presenters

Marie Johnson



Marie Johnson is the Director of Student Financial Services at the University of Vermont, overseeing the bursar functions, financial aid, scholarship administration, and student employment. She holds a B.S. in Business Administration and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Vermont. She has over 30 years of higher education student finance experience. She is currently the President of VASFAA and serves as the VT State Rep for EASFAA. She is a past president of EASFAA and has served EASFAA in many capacities, including as membership chair, Multicultural, and Diversity Committee chair, and as a mentor in the EASFAA Connects program, on several EASFAA conference committees. She served on the COSUAA Steering Committee for four years, as secretary for the Vermont Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (VASFAA), VASFAA listserv manager, and on various VASFAA committees. She has mentored 3 cohorts of the NASFAA Diversity Leadership Program, on various NASFAA task forces, and on the Nominations and Elections Committee. She has received EASFAA's Leadership Award and Committee Award as chair of the Multicultural and Diversity Committee.

Marylin Cargill



Ms. Marilyn J. Cargill, started her career in helping Vermont students achieve their education goals at the University of Vermont first as a work-study student and then as a full-time staff member in the Financial Aid Office. In 1984 she joined the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation and currently serves as the Vice President of Financial Aid Services, Marketing, Research, Public Affairs. Ms. Cargill worked in VSAC's Grant and Scholarship areas and oversaw all the loan origination and servicing areas before she joined the senior leadership team. She currently oversees all of the financial aid programs at VSAC as well as the loan servicing areas, Research, Marketing and Public Affairs. Ms. Cargill has spent over 39 years at VSAC working to ensure that post-secondary education and training remains affordable for Vermont students of all ages and economic backgrounds. Ms. Cargill is a past president of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) and served for over 20 years on the NASSGAP executive committee. Ms. Cargill volunteers in her community and serves as the Co-Chair of the Monkton Planning Commission, a position she has held for the past 6 years.

Presenters

Tanner Matchus



Tanner Matchus is the Associate Director of Financial Aid at the Community College of Vermont (CCV). Tanner began his career in financial aid in 2014 as a Financial Aid Counselor at CCV. He has also served as a Coordinator of Financial Aid Services and the Assistant Director of Financial Aid at CCV prior to his current role.

Tanner has earned several NASFAA credentials including R2T4, Satisfactory Academic Progress, Verification, and Cost of Attendance. He earned his BA in Anthropology from New Mexico State University and MA in Education from Western New Mexico University. He also has served on the VASFAA conference committee and is VASFAA President-Elect.

Erica Victoria



Erica Victoria, MSW, MA (she/they) is a Care Team Outreach Coordinator at UVM. Her primary role at the University of Vermont is to support students' mental health and well-being through case management and advocacy. She also collaborates with on-campus partners to consult about student mental health in addition to providing trainings for UVM staff and students on topics related to mental health, trauma, and disability justice. Erica received her Masters in Peace and Human Rights Education from Columbia University in 2014

and her Masters in Social Work from Boston College in 2017. While in their MSW program, they concentrated in Trauma and Resiliency studies and were trained primarily at Boston Medical Center with the Child Witness to Violence Project. Prior to working at UVM, they worked in both Boston and Burlington as a clinical social worker supporting children, adolescents, and families impacted by domestic violence and sexual violence. Erica also currently works as a disability justice educator, providing workshops to local and national organizations on topics such as supporting disabled and neurodivergent survivors of violence and utilizing transformative justice approaches.

Presenters

Joe Russell



Joe Russell is the Assistant Dean of Students at the University of Vermont, where he has worked for 15 years. His primary focus is leading the University's Care Team: a group of staff dedicated to supporting students who are in crisis or experiencing distress. He also serves as the Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Students and is part of the institutional response to campus crises as a member of the Emergency Operations Group. Joe's

work is highly relational, and he is actively involved in campus social justice initiatives, student leadership development, and support for the BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities at UVM. Prior to his current role, Joe's career in Higher Education spanned several functional areas, including Residential Life and Enrollment Management.

Kristi Jovell



Kristi Jovell is Director of Student Financial Services Operations and Communications at Middlebury College. Prior to this role, she served as Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management at Champlain College. Kristi is an EASFAA Past President and will begin her term as NASFAA National Chair Elect on July 1.

Throughout her career, Kristi has been an active leader and participant in professional association activities at the state, regional, and national levels. She is currently serving as a member of EASFAA Leads – EASFAA's training series focused on leadership and professional development – and as Chair of the NASFAA Conference Program Task Force.

Kristi earned her FAAC designation as a Certified Financial Aid Administrator from NASFAA and earned her bachelor's degree in business administration/management and master's degree in adult education from Elmira College.

Presenters

Marianne Werner



Marianne Werner graduated from St. Michael's College with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. She was a lead Financial Aid Counselor in VSAC's Student Financial Aid Services Division from 1995-2008 which served as the Financial Aid Office for eight to ten Vermont post-secondary institutions. She was the Director of Financial Aid at New England Culinary Institute from 2008-2016. Marianne is the current Associate Director of Financial Aid serving the online undergraduate and graduate populations at Champlain College from 2016 to the present.

Scott Giles



Scott A. Giles has served VSAC since 2003. Mr. Giles was appointed president and CEO of VSAC after serving as vice president of operations, social marketing, and strategy. Mr. Giles previously served as deputy chief of staff of the Committee on Science of the U.S. House of Representatives and as senior professional staff member on the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, where he authored the student loan provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1998. He was appointed by the Secretary of Education to serve on the Federal Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance and was elected chair. A national expert in higher education policy, regulation, and servicing, he has been designated by Secretary Spellings and Secretary Duncan to represent the nonprofit student loan lenders and servicers in three rounds of negotiated rule-making. Mr. Giles has a BA from St. Lawrence University and an MA and PhD from the University of Virginia, as well as certificates in finance and management from the Harvard Business School and the Kennedy School of Government.



Vermont Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

Mission

Membership includes Education Institutions of Post-secondary Education in the State of Vermont and VSAC and those educational associations, government agencies and organizations providing direct services that promote and support administration of financial aid to post-secondary institutions in Vermont.

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Special Recognition

Each year at its summer conference, VASFAA recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the association and financial aid profession in Vermont.

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| 2021 Melaney Wald (Special Recognition) | 2010 Kit Ardell (Volunteer of the year) |
| Chris Barry (Outstanding Volunteer Award) | 2009 Marcia Vance |
| 2020 Ryan Dulude (Special Recognition) | (Special Recognition, posthumous) |
| 2019 Pam Chisolm (Lifetime Achievement Award) | 2008 Michael Ireland (Volunteer of the year) |
| Donna Stevens (Outstanding Volunteer Award) | Yvonne Whitaker (Special Recognition) |
| 2018 Jill King (Outstanding Volunteer) | 2007 Cathy McCullough (Person of the Year) |
| 2016 Deborah Lessor (Volunteer of the year) | 2006 Dino Koff (Person of the Year) |
| 2015 Renee Blanchet (Volunteer of the year) | 2005 Marilyn Cargill (Person of the Year) |
| 2014 Ryan Gates (Volunteer of the year) | 2004 Dave Myette (Person of the Year) |
| 2013 Don Vickers (Lifetime of Achievement) | 2003 Yvonne Whitaker (Person of the Year) |
| 2012 Cathy Mullins (Volunteer of the year) | 2002 Maureen Gardner (Person of the Year) |
| 2011 Natalie Young (Volunteer of the year) | 2001 Pam Chisholm (Person of the Year) |
| Jason Stuart Walt (Special Recognition) | Ted Franzeim (Person of the Year) |
| | 2000 Ken Moulton (Person of the Year) |

Inside VASFAA

Elected Officers



Marie Johnson
President



Tanner Matchus
President - Elect



Judy Buxton
Secretary



Miranda Roth
Treasurer

Conference Committee



Linda Thatcher
Co-Chair



Martha Hinchman
Co-Chair



Lynda Ossola



Marilyn Cargill



Jade Leighty



Tanner Matchus



Chris Barry



Jeani Stella-Devani



Miranda Roth

Get Involved!

Join a committee

VASFAA Executive Committee

President: Presides over all meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee and performs other duties that pertain to leading VASFAA as President. They are a member of all committees and also the official voting representative of VASFAA to any regional or national association.

President-Elect: In the temporary absence or disability of the President, this person shall have the powers and perform all duties and responsibilities of the President. If there is not a President-Elect in office, these functions are performed by the Past-President until election of a President-Elect.

Treasurer: Responsible for disbursement and receivables for VASFAA under policies approved by the Executive Committee and is responsible for keeping record of receipts and disbursements. The Treasurer should also be prepared to submit a financial report at each regular Association meeting.

Treasurer-Elect: Shall perform duties of the Treasurer in the event the Treasurer is unable to serve and performs duties as assigned by the President.

Secretary: Responsible for developing, distributing, and maintaining the non-financial records of the Association. This person also assumes responsibility for maintaining VASFAA's P&P Manual, administering the election of officers and any other voting requirements, and works closely with the President in planning VASFAA business and Executive Meetings.

Get Involved!

Join a committee

Website Committee

Responsible for the upkeep of the VASFAA website and monitoring the web email inbox for requests. Common updates include, yearly committee updates, meeting minutes, conference and event updates, and job board updates. This committee also works with the VASFAA website provider for updates to forms.

Conference Committee

Plans the annual summer conference which includes financial aid updates, trainings, and professional development opportunities. Monitors the conference email inbox and works closely with the Website Committee for conference page updates.

By-Laws Committee

The By-Laws committee reviews both the by-laws and Association activities annually to confirm that the Association is acting within the by-laws. The committee also recommends changes to the by-laws, as needed.

Government Relations Committee


Monitors and influences government financial aid activities and informs and educates the membership. Also keeps the VT delegation aware of issues affecting our students and campuses.

Training Committee

Enhances the professional development of the membership by recommending and soliciting training topics and sees them through to implementation.

Not quite ready to join a committee?

You can still get involved by moderating a session at a future conference!



Please don't forget to
complete the conference
survey with your
valuable feedback!

**We will e-mail the survey link
after the conference.**

Keep an eye out for it!

Thank you to this year's
sponsors!

