President’s Update

Daniel Reed
CASFAA President
Director of Financial Aid
San Diego Christian College

I hope the year is coming along well for you. As you’ve seen, we're into elections for CASFAA’s Executive Council. Great thanks goes to each member who has stepped up to run for a position! As one who has held 4 different roles on the EC over the last few years, I can tell you that it is a remarkable thing! Here are the main things I love about being involved in CASFAA:

- I get to speak out for equity and innovation at the state and national level
- I get to connect with colleagues across the state who are passionate about what they do
- I get to learn about other schools and segments (from ATB to MCS, BOG to GE to IM)
- I get a broader perspective on Financial Aid and student service issues
- I get to learn about all the amazing things CASFAA does for California (more than just an annual conference!)

For these reasons, and many more, I hope you’re inspired to join some committees to provide for CASFAA's future! It does take some extra work, and will pull your time a bit, but it is well worth the investment. If you or your supervisor have any questions about the commitment or importance of these roles, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for serving California’s students every day. See you in Monterey for this year’s annual conference: Finding Your Voice!
CASFAA Newsletter

VOLUME XXXIV, ISSUE 2

CASFAA News is an official publication of the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and is available on the website four times a year.

EDITORIAL POLICY
Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily of the Association, or of the institutions or employers represented by the authors.

CASFAA Newsletter Editor
Daniel Roddick, Student Financial Support
University of California, Office of the President
Work Phone (510) 987-9465, daniel.roddick@ucop.edu

ADVERTISING
For advertising information and rates, or to submit advertising artwork, please contact the CASFAA Newsletter Editor.

© 2017 by the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. You are authorized to photocopy all or part of this publication for distribution within your institution.

www.casfaa.org

2017 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Daniel Reed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>San Diego Christian College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:daniel.reed@sdcc.edu">daniel.reed@sdcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past-President</td>
<td>Scott Cline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>California College of the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:scline@cca.edu">scline@cca.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Anita Kermes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CSU Sacramento</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:anita.kermes@csus.edu">anita.kermes@csus.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP Federal Issues</td>
<td>Lissa Wayne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New York Film Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:l.wayne@nyfa.edu">l.wayne@nyfa.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP State Issues</td>
<td>Daniel Roddick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UC Office of the President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:daniel.roddick@ucop.edu">daniel.roddick@ucop.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Dustin Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mills College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:dsmithsalinas@mills.edu">dsmithsalinas@mills.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Sunshine Garcia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CSU Channel Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:sunshine.garcia@csuci.edu">sunshine.garcia@csuci.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer-Elect</td>
<td>Wilbert Lleses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saint Mary's College of CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:wai5@stmarys-ca.edu">wai5@stmarys-ca.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCC Segment Rep</td>
<td>Luanne Canestro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>San Mateo CC District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:canestrol@smccd.edu">canestrol@smccd.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>Mary Booker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Segment Rep</td>
<td>University of San Francisco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mbooker@usfca.edu">mbooker@usfca.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proprietary</td>
<td>Tom Le</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Segment Rep</td>
<td>New York Film Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:t.lej@nyfa.edu">t.lej@nyfa.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSU Segment Rep</td>
<td>Saul Ramirez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cal Poly Pomona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:sramirez@cpp.edu">sramirez@cpp.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Segment Rep</td>
<td>Audren Morris-Sandoval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UC Los Angeles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:amsandoval@saonet.ucla.edu">amsandoval@saonet.ucla.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grad/Professional</td>
<td>Barbara Bickett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member at Large</td>
<td>DeVry University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bbickett@devrygroup.com">bbickett@devrygroup.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access &amp; Diversity</td>
<td>Yuliana Martinez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member at Large</td>
<td>Antelope Valley College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ymartinez19@avc.edu">ymartinez19@avc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2017 COMMITTEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference Chair</th>
<th>Dewayne Barnes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>California College of the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:dbarnes@cca.edu">dbarnes@cca.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Relations</td>
<td>Anafe Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pierce College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:robinsa@piercecollege.edu">robinsa@piercecollege.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Services</td>
<td>Lindsay Crowell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UC Irvine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lcrowell@uci.edu">lcrowell@uci.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1040 Workshops, and Association Services</td>
<td>Kim Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First Marblehead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:kthomas@fmd.com">kthomas@fmd.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Initiatives</td>
<td>Dustin Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
<td>Daniel Roddick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ciel Senechal recently joined College Ave Student Loans, heading up Campus Development – West Coast. An industry veteran, Ciel has worked for many years in various school financial aid offices as well as several student loan companies. She most recently came from Vocado, a financial aid technology company where she managed sales nationwide. Launched in December 2014, College Ave Student Loans is simplifying the student loan experience so students can focus on their educational objectives, rather than financing them. In her new role, Ciel will be working with schools to introduce them to our suite of private loan products geared for undergraduate, graduate and parent borrowers. You can connect with Ciel at csenechal@collegeave.com or call her at (562) 826-7686 for more information.

Wish to be featured in the Transitions section of the CASFAA Newsletter? It’s a great way to announce new staff, retirements, weddings, babies on the way, eventful vacations, or promotions. Just email the CASFAA Newsletter Editor with a blurb and a pic and you’ll be in the next issue!
If school, state and national goals related to college completion are to be met, higher education needs to do a better job with helping transfer students succeed. Like their full-time, first-time counterparts, transfer students report a high commitment to attending college and finishing school; however, fewer than one in seven community college students who transfer complete a degree.

Choosing a pathway
Deciding how to get to their education goals from where they are today can be difficult. Ruffalo Noel Levitz’ 2013 report on *The Attitudes and Motivations of College Transfer Students* found that up to 62 percent of respondents at four-year public institutions, 58.7 percent at four-year private schools and 49.7 percent at two-year public schools wanted help in preparing a written academic plan for graduation.

![Bar chart showing percentage of students wanting help preparing an academic plan.](chart)

*Source:* *The Attitudes and Motivations of College Transfer Students*, Ruffalo Noel Levitz

Funding College
In the same study, more than half of all transfer students indicated they do not have the financial resources needed to finish their programs of study. More than half also reported they have financial problems that will interfere with their studies.

Boosting Productivity
Even though they have some college experience behind them, transfer students noted in the study that they would like to receive help with student skills, such as time management, taking notes and exam strategies.

Getting Hired
The majority of respondents in the study wanted the opportunity to explore advantages and disadvantages of their chosen career. Across all institution types, they also wanted help in identifying work experiences or internships related to their major.
There is a lot of activity helping students transfer from public two-year to four-year institutions. A January 2017 study by the Community College Research Center suggests that in the state of Texas, state policy needs to address three primary issues in order to strengthen transfer student success in the state: create stronger transfer pathways, help students choose and stay on a transfer pathway, and build momentum for regional community college-university collaboration to improve transfer outcomes.

Schools are responding to these needs in many ways. Orientation programs specifically designed for transfer students are either required or optional at many institutions. Ruffalo Noel Levitz recommends making these programs required in order to reach a larger number of students. I also noted dedicated advising staff for transfer students at many institutions.

You may want to look at what you are doing to help your new students in the areas of choosing a pathway, funding college and getting hired. Are your current offerings helpful to your transfer population? Do they have the same opportunities to participate as your new students? Are they offered in such a way as to be convenient to your transfer population? Are there institution-specific barriers to transfer-student success that you can address?

Mary Booker
AVP Student Financial Services
University of San Francisco

Greetings fellow CASFAA colleagues! I have the privilege and honor of serving as your Independent Representative for 2017. The recent federal and state budget proposals have thousands of students and administrators concerned about the future of access to higher education in the broad sense. The new administration has really brought about winds of change, not just for our offices, but for our students!

Proposed cuts to Pell, SEOG, Cal Grant along with proposed changes to tax laws and loan eligibility are critical to determining and delivering aid. Lawmakers are currently discussing the potential benefits and challenges associated with implementing a “one grant, one loan” system for aid, bringing back the year-round Pell Grant, expanding authority for financial aid offices to counsel students and in some cases limit their borrowing or stagger aid disbursement, and implementing income-share agreements more broadly as an alternative funding mechanism. Connecting with your colleagues in our segment, and others, is a great way to learn, share and get energized. There will be plenty of opportunity to learn, share, and advocate on behalf of our students. This summer the Access and Diversity Committee of CASFAA will be offering a one day in person training to all financial aid professionals – one in Northern and one in Southern California. Planning is underway and we hope to have your attendance to make the events successful.

AICCU continues to do an amazing job advocating on behalf of the segment to repel the cut to private institutions. Over the past decade, the maximum award to students attending private, nonprofit institutions has been reduced from the highest amount of $9708 to its current $9084. AICCU institutions are committed to the partnership with the state to support student access. A long-term formula policy and reinvestment in the maximum award will ensure that California students utilize the capacity of both public and private institutions. Please provide your feedback and recommendations on how we can keep the fight going. Given budget challenges for many of our institutions, maintaining the current funding level will be critical for access and inclusion at our schools.

And finally, I would love to hear from you about your needs and how CASFAA can help. Our Independent Segmental Breakfast will be held on October 28, the day before the CASFAA Conference begins in Monterey, October 29 -31, 2017. So, if you have ideas for topics, speakers, want to volunteer, or just want to chat, please email me at mbooker@usfca.edu or call me at 415-422-2620.
Greetings CASFAA members! We are almost half-way through the year and it has been a busy time as we prepare for graduation season and summer processing. As your Access and Diversity representative, I have been very busy representing you in various CASFAA committees and the Access and Diversity Committee has also been very busy planning some exciting training for our membership.

This past March 6 and 7, the EC along with some members and CCCSFAAA participated in Day at the Capitol. It was two days full of visits with staffers and legislators where we discussed issues of great importance to our membership. These visits gave us the opportunity to make ourselves available to provide feedback to staffers and legislators as questions arise. I recommend you keep an eye out for next year’s Day at the Capitol and participate, it is a very rewarding experience. We are the voice of the thousands of students who are impacted by the decisions made in Sacramento.

I would like to thank everyone that participated in the summer training survey. We had 259 responses to the survey and 89.5% of you said you were interested in a one day in-person summer training. As a result the Access and Diversity Committee has been very busy planning a one day back-to-basics workshop with sessions on Need Analysis- What’s in an EFC?, 1040 Review, and how to determine PJ in this new world of PPY! We’re also happy to offer a session on how we can support our Dreamers. The workshops will be held on June 7th, at Cogswell Polytechnical College in San Jose, and June 8th, at Pepperdine Graziadio School of Business & Management in Los Angeles. We hope you are able to join us!

**CASFAA Summer Training!**

This one day training will benefit you whether you are a veteran FAO and can use a refresher, or are new to the profession and have never done a hand calculation before! And the opportunity to connect with your peers, share and learn something new is invaluable!

**Agenda-**

8:30 am Registration and Continental Breakfast
9-4 pm Workshop

- Needs Analysis - What's In an EFC?
- 1040 Review - now that we can accept them again!
- Professional Judgment in the new PPY World
- Dreamers- How can we help them?

June 7, 2017 Cogswell Polytechnical College, San Jose
June 8, 2017 Pepperdine Graziadio School of Business & Management, Los Angeles

Register here and now at CASFAA's [Summer Dive In](#).

The Access and Diversity Resource page has been updated, if you have any resources you find valuable send me an email and I would be more than happy to add the resource to that page and share it with the membership. Especially if you would like to join our committee! Enjoy your summer!
CASFAA Conference Corner

This year's annual conference will be held at the newly renovated Monterey Conference Center, The Portola Hotel, and the Monterey Marriott. The Program Committee will provide some fantastic sessions including continuing the involvement of our CSAC partners as well. The Conference committee is gearing up for our first kick-off call in the next few weeks to make sure Monterey continues to have a great CASFAA conference. Hotel Reservations are available now.

The Conference Center and Hotels are located in downtown Monterey, walking distance to Fisherman's Wharf, shops and restaurants on Alvarado, and a short FREE shuttle ride to Cannery Row and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Should you find yourself visiting "The Wharf" as we locals call it, be sure to sample the clam chowder and find the best tasting one. My favorite is from Old Fisherman's Grotto personally, but you can decide for yourself. Monterey is a great place to bring your family and extend your stay before or after our event.

As you begin your planning to attend the conference, there are some flight deals from Southern California directly into the Monterey airport for as low as $185 now. Don't miss the opportunity to secure a great low flight cost by waiting until the last minute.

See you in Monterey this October!

~Dewayne Barnes

Did you notice that the 2017 FSA Conference will be on the East Coast again? Why go all the way out there when you can have ED training at the annual CASFAA Conference in lovely Monterey? The brand new convention center will be completed this year, check out their progress here: http://montereyconferencecenter.com/. Looking forward to connecting with you in October at our CASFAA Conference, Finding Your Voice!
Happy Spring! By the time you read this, you’ll be gearing up for graduation and awarding your summer aid. And some of you may already be preparing for your PJ requests for income adjustments for 1718. It seems like the year just started when we had to implement the new BOGFW and Enrollment Priority standards. Never a dull moment!

For those of you who attended the CCCSFAAAA Conference in Monterey, I hope you found it as valuable as I did. And I hope you came away realizing what a Super Hero you are to your students and others on your campus.

- The pre-conference Financial Literacy Workshop was led by Soledad McCarthy from Skyline College and was well attended. It was very interactive and each table developed a course by the end of the day, and shared it with the group. Two big take-aways for me is that we should be contextualizing our content for the group we’re presenting to in order to make it relevant and relatable. And that to be able to reach more students, the stand alone workshop is not the best model. We need to get fin lit curriculum into the classroom.

- The Financial Literacy Initiative first launched in 2014 by the Chancellor’s Office has a new name: The Financial Wellness Initiative. In collaboration with Communications, the initiative has a new logo and a social media campaign will kick-off at the start of the 2017 fall term to promote the initiative. The CO will also have infographics to share with students and campus staff to learn more about this initiative. The new logo was officially unveiled during the financial aid All Directors meeting at the Conference.

To further affirm the need and desire to make fin lit more widespread on our campuses, two workshops, one in Walnut Creek and one in Irvine, were hosted by the IEPI (Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative) within the Chancellor’s Office last month and were well attended. Over 126 people attended from FA Staff, Deans, Counselors, Instructors, and more. The title was “The Role of Financial Well-Being in Student Success”. The attendees felt that all the information was useful and the networking was a highlight. Two big take-aways from these events was the need for more training for faculty and presenters, and help with developing curriculum. So the next steps for the CO will be to find someone to develop curriculum and to train-the-trainer. There is also in the works the development of a web site where all things fin lit will be housed and that we all will have access to. It will be a repository of tools and resources that can be shared. It should be ready by the end of the summer.

Another insightful session from the conference was led by current and past CCCSFAAAA Presidents, Tim, Ruby and Bryan. They posed the question to the 57 in attendance “I wish there was a session on…”, and everyone shared. (Thank you Brian Heinemann!) There were a lot of requests for basic training and understanding the “why” behind what we do and say to students. Also asked for was customer service training with an emphasis on dealing with challenging “customers” and cultural competencies. Plus much more! All the comments were recorded by CO staff, so I think we can anticipate some additional training opportunities.
In the meantime, CASFAA is hosting a one day back-to-basics workshop, sponsored by the Access and Diversity Committee, one in the north and one in the south- June 7, at Cogswell College in San Jose, and June 8, at Pepperdine Graziadio School of Business & Management in Los Angeles. Topics to be covered are:

- Needs Analysis- What’s In an EFC?
- 1040 Review
- Professional Judgment in the new PPY World
- Dreamers- How can we help them?

We hope those new to FA will attend as well as seasoned professionals. Registration information can be found on the CASFAA website.

The CC Segmental Committee is in the early stages of planning our breakfast and breakout sessions at the CASFAA Conference, October 29-31, in beautiful Monterey. As always, I would love to hear your ideas/needs, and if you would like to help with planning please contact me at canestrol@smccd.edu, 650.306.3175.

**CASFAA Summer Training!**
(see details, page 6.)

---

**Affordable Private Student Loans**

When Federal Financial Aid is not enough, CEFCU® can help.

Apply online at cefcu.com/college.

**CEFCU**
Not a bank. Better.
It’s been a busy first quarter for the 2017 Federal Issues Committee as we have attempted to stay up to date with the flurry of congressional activity and US ED regulatory updates. I have summarized some of the highlights that merit our attention and concern.

**IRS DRT**

The US Department of Education has provided verification relief in the form of DCL GEN 17-04 allowing financial aid administrators to accept a signed Federal tax return for 2015 income to complete verification in lieu of the IRS DRT suspension. *CASFAA will be offering two summer training sessions this June that include a review of the Federal tax documents for anyone needing a refresher.* The IRS DRT will be operational in the 2018-2019 FAFSA cycle however this solution will include limited IRS information displayed to the applicant. Student and parent tax information will only be visible via the ISIR and the SAR.

**2018-2019 FAFSA**

A draft version of the 2018-2019 FAFSA and response documents were made available on IFAP on April 17 for review and comment. The CASFAA Federal Issues Committee will submit our collective comments on during the first week of June. The community is invited to review the updated draft documents and submit comments on or before June 16, 2017.

**Legislative Updates**

**HR 1429, LEADS Act:** This bill would require schools to provide students with annual notices of student loan borrowing amounts. The U.S. Department of Education would create a template for schools to comply.

**HR 1193, Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act:** Introduced again in this session of Congress, the bill would change the current one-time entrance counseling requirement for student loans and Pell Grants *into an annual counseling requirement.*

**HR 1432, SUCCESS Act:** The Stopping Unfair Collateral Consequences from Ending Student Success (SUCCESS) Act repeals the suspension of eligibility for drug-related offenses provision in the Higher Education Act and prohibits the U.S. Department of Education from asking federal financial aid applicants if they have been convicted of a drug offense.
Nudging Students Toward Smart Borrowing

As students increasingly rely on loans to finance part or all of their college education the need for relevant, timely information to help make informed borrowing choices has become more critical than ever.

Students themselves are indicating a need for such initiatives, as demonstrated through a number of surveys that uncover numerous confusing concepts for loan borrowers. Consider the following:

- 48% of borrowers either don’t know or incorrectly estimate the amount they have borrowed.\(^1\)
- 28% incorrectly believe they have no federal loans at all.\(^1\)
- 94% of student borrowers do not understand their loan repayment terms.\(^2\)

The ramifications for borrower confusion can be significant. When students do not invest in or avail themselves of existing loan counseling resources, those students, as well as schools and society at large, suffer from the effects of over borrowing, lower degree attainment, increased attrition, and student loan default.

A number of schools and states, however, are using a simple yet innovative approach to help students actively manage loan debt as they progress toward degree completion. These institutions use loan summaries, sometimes called “debt letters,” to supplement loan counseling practices and expand on financial education outreach—keeping students apprised of their individual borrowing levels and allowing them to make informed choices about future repayment scenarios.

Loan summaries/debt letters are a simple, low-touch effort to keep student borrowers engaged in the active management of their loans while in school. While letters can vary among institutions, commonalities include a summary of current aggregate borrowing, estimated monthly repayment amounts, and resources for learning more or obtaining help. These summaries are strategically scheduled to be delivered at times when students are making financial aid and/or course registration decisions, thus providing a highly-effective, just-in-time intervention for borrowers.

Inceptia’s newest research brief, *Loan Summaries: Nudging Students Toward Smart Borrowing*, examines how three different universities administered their loan summary initiatives and the corresponding results on student behavior. The results offer support that this simple, lost-cost practice can impact not only borrowing behaviors, but also academic performance and enrollment persistence. Furthermore, the brief offers best practice considerations for schools looking at implementing loan summaries as to support student success.

The research brief and a recorded webinar diving deeper into the brief’s findings and offering insight and strategies on how loan summaries help borrowers better understand their loans can be viewed at inceptia.org/smart-borrowers.


Recently on NBC Nightly News, James B. Comey, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was interviewed about what he does to protect his privacy online. To my amazement, his response included a piece of tape across his camera on his laptop. Yes, you heard that right. With today’s technology, one of the first steps is still to cover the camera on your computer. Here are ten easy steps to protect your privacy online.

1) Never connect your personal computer to an unsecure Wi-Fi. Internet is free at most restaurants, coffee shops, hotels and even airports, but that doesn’t mean we should just assume they are safe connections.

2) Consider using a virtual private network (VPN) if you are going to use a public Wi-Fi. VPNs will normally block your ISP activity from going directly to tracking sites by being an encrypted tunnel that protects your personal data from the bad guys. There are VPNs that are available for a small monthly fee.

3) Caution! Beware of what you save and leave open in the cloud. Dropbox, SkyDive and Google Docs have opened the door to convenience for sharing information and data, but with that comes an increase need for awareness. Remember to not save personal data, passwords and banking information to the cloud. However, no matter what is saved and shared, secure the information with a password and an authenticator. This is known as two-factor authentication.

4) Don’t give out your zip code to merchants when you are making a purchase in their store. Gas stations are different; it’s part of the card authentication. Often information collected in stores is sold to marketing agencies. Sharing your zip code increases your junk mail, which also increases your chances for identity theft.

5) Question why someone might be asking for just the four digits of your Social Security number (SSN). This may be a quick way for some vendors to verify identity, but it is also increasing the opportunities for untrustworthy people to gain access to your financial information. Ask what other information can be provided other than the last four of your SSN.

6) Change your passwords often. Everyone has several passwords and the easy way out is to use slightly altered versions of the same password. If it’s easy for you, then most likely it’s easy for an identity thief. Be creative and include uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and other symbols (if allowed).

7) Remove Java from your computer. Java is used for websites to incorporate your information into their system, but is rarely needed anymore. Having Java installed allows holes in your computer’s security.

8) Fibbing is okay. Yes, don’t answer all of the security questions truthfully when setting up an online account. For instance, if your mom is your friend on Facebook and that’s an answer to a security question to get greater access into you banking account, you just unlocked the deadbolt. Have your own answers to the security questions, but not one that is easily accessible to hackers.

9) Don’t put off updating your operating system or your computer’s security. Online security is a tough job; system upgrade improvements have been made to protect you. Additionally, you are less protected when you don’t keep your security updated.
10) And yes, number ten, keep the camera covered on your personal computer. Even when cameras are turned off, they can be hacked. If that happens, you leave yourself open for private photos to be taken. Simply put a piece of tape across your camera and only remove it when you are video chatting with someone. Simply replace the tape as soon as you are finished.

The list of ways to protect yourself is endless. Most of these tips are encouraged for personal computers, but there are serious precautions that should be made to protect your cellular device. If nothing else, at least turn off your location except for when you are using a particular app. We remind our children to beware of strangers, so why would we allow ourselves to open up access to our personal finances, secure information and home to strangers? Protect yourself and continuously monitor new ways to protect your privacy.

---

State Issues Update

Daniel Roddick  
Principal Loan & Contract Analyst  
University of California, Office of the President

As VP of State Issues, I have been working with my committee to review the many scores of bills out there affecting financial aid. A subcommittee formed to review about 60 bills. We then short-listed 10 we thought might be most impactful. We reviewed those in depth to build consensus as to whether or not it was worthwhile to take a position supporting or opposing some bills. We came up with a list of 6. Here are the bills, with links and applicable details. CASFAA’s Executive Council has not taken a specific position on any of these at this time.

**AB-463** A limit of $5M clarifies the financial impact, which is minimal. Supports education in rural areas. In effect it's a pilot program and is the appropriate scale to see how we can help teachers.

**AB-990** This bill would require CSU, and requests UC, to post the cost for a 1-bedroom apartment in their websites. This doesn't reflect reality, but could it provide a general comparison of living cost college to college?

**AB-1058** This adds foster youth and wards of the court to the list of TANF recipients and financially needy students as qualifying for fee waivers.

**AB-1076** Calls for a study on which campuses provide housing to foster youth or homeless students during academic breaks.

**AB-1166** Stops the CalGrant cuts to students. Sets in place a plan to treat students at schools in other segments equally with public schools.

**AB-1178** Requires schools to provide total cumulative amount of student's federal, state, and private education loans. As this information is not readily available we run the risk of providing incomplete information which will not enhance student financial wellness.
Hello CASFAA community!!

We’ve had another successful year of spring tax training here in California. Our 8 in-person workshops had over 350 in attendance, and in our online webinar opportunities we served over 33 schools participating with a great Q & A session. Our tax specialist, Robert Weinerman, Iron Bridge Resources was able to experience all things California (some rain, some sun and lots of traffic)! But most of all he delivered an exceptional program filled with new information that will help make decoding taxes & verification a bit easier this season. A big thank you to all of our school hosts at Sierra College, DeAnza College, Contra Costa Community College, California Lutheran Univ, Pepperdine Univ Graziaadio School of Business, Pomona College, Orange Coast Community College District Offices, La Sierra Univ and Univ of San Diego! Thank you CASFAA members for taking time to attend this training opportunity and a BIG THANK YOU to Iron Bridge Resources for helping further CASFAA’s mission of providing professional development and great growth.
The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) annual conference is coming to San Diego, California in June, 2017 at the San Diego Convention Center from June 26 - 29, and registration is now open.

...See you there!

Meet the Unique Needs of Your Students

Managing AB 540 verifications and the BOG Fee Waivers’ academic standards has increased demand on your staff. StudentForms™ streamlines even those processes unique to California.

Standardize AB 540 Eligibility Verification
- Normalize the process
- Optimize efficiency
- Nurture Dreamers

Simplify BOG Fee Waiver Appeals
- Initiated by students
- Streamline approvals & declines
- Improve student & staff experience

See the CampusLogic platform in action | campuslogic.com/demo
Hi CASFAA…I’m back! It’s with great honor and pleasure to be appointed by the Executive Council as your 2017 Proprietary Segmental Representative for the remainder of this year. Many of you have known me as your 2013 Proprietary Chair and in other various positions on the Executive Council throughout the years. I would like to thank our 2016 Chair Jesse Marquez for all his hard work and wish him well during this transition.

My goal for the remainder of this year is to keep you informed of current industry best practices and to keep our segment represented by increasing our membership through CASFAA as well as our participation through volunteer efforts so our voices are heard and our segment does not go under represented.

I have surveyed our membership last month and my committee and I are evaluating your feedback. We look forward to planning and implementing your ideas and suggestions regarding training opportunities during the year and activities at our upcoming annual pre-conference workshop in Monterey this October.

Segment Resource: BPPE Compliance Workshops

This past March I had an opportunity to attend a compliance workshop with the Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE). The Bureau protects consumers and students by conducting qualitative reviews of educational programs and operating standards of California’s private postsecondary educational institutions.

We had the opportunity to meet two Compliance Inspectors whom provided each participant a highly informative resource guide and covered topics on Approval to Operate, Minimum Operating Standards, Admission and Enrollment Standards, Institution’s Website, School Catalog, School Performance Fact Sheet, Enrollment Agreement, Reporting Requirements and Fees, Record Keeping, Orderly School Closure and Teach-Outs. The inspectors also shared insightful best practices on expectations and requirements to pass an announced or unannounced audit.

If you missed this opportunity, I highly recommend that you attend as there are still many upcoming workshop dates:

http://www.bppe.ca.gov/enforcement/compliance_workshops.shtml

Getting Bored on the Job? Get on the Job Board!

The JobsLink on the CASFAA website takes you to opportunities throughout the Golden State and beyond (but don’t leave us!)