



Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

# THE INFORMER

*The Quarterly IASFAA Newsletter*

## IN THIS ISSUE

STARS PROGRAM

2022-23 AWARD  
WINNERS

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBER VOICES

## IASFAA and STARS

Every year IASFAA chooses a local charity to fundraise for at the annual conference. STARS was the selected charity for the Fall 2022 IASFAA Conference. During the Wednesday lunch, Mia Laustrup, Program Director of the STARS program, spoke to conference attendees about STARS and the lowans they serve. Through a trivia tournament and other generous donations made by attendees, IASFAA raised \$1,282 for the STARS program.

STARS is a scholarship program created in 1997 to support

parents and custodial grandparents living in Pottawattamie County in obtaining higher education, including professional licenses, certificates, or an associate or bachelor's degree. While STARS provides needed financial support that scholarship recipients can use for educational expenses, living expenses, and childcare, they also provide recipients with programming and resources to help them succeed in attaining their higher educational goals.



Denise Stowman and  
Mia Laustrup from STARS

You can read more about STARS and IASFAA in the November 2 issue of *The Daily Nonpareil* [here](#).

# 2022-2023 Award Winners

We had a great time at the IASFAA conference and recognized some of our colleagues for their outstanding work to support IASFAA and the financial aid profession. Feel free to reach out to congratulate them!



John C. Parker  
Distinguished Service  
Sara Sroka



MASFAA Leadership  
Award  
Renae Armentrout



Meritorious Service  
Shelly Adams



Outstanding Committee  
Member  
Brandi Miller



Outstanding New  
Professional  
Jess Graham

Not Pictured:

John Heisner Memorial  
Lifetime Achievement -  
**Aaron Steffens**

Presidential Award -  
**Karna Hofmeyer**

# Diversity Task Force is now an IASFAA Standing Committee!

During the Business Meeting at the fall IASFAA conference in October, the membership voted to create a Diversity Committee. Here's how it all started!

Last fiscal year, we released the IASFAA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Commitment. In that commitment, which is featured on home page of the IASFAA website, we state that IASFAA is committed to actively integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion into its communications and practices as a core piece of its mission to serve students and financial aid professionals. It makes this commitment to all individuals and communities it serves, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, nationality, disability, appearance, geographic location, professional level, or institution type.

Our commitment includes: 1) Ensuring that diverse perspectives play an intentional role in discussions of financial aid administration and policymaking. 2) Offering and promoting professional development opportunities focused on empowering each and every student, family, and colleague we serve. 3) Actively promoting and modeling equal access to member involvement and resources at the state, regional, and national levels. 4) Fostering a safe and open space for dialogue to educate and support our membership as a central part of the organization's mission of service.

We believe this commitment should be followed by the creation of a Diversity Standing Committee to ensure our fidelity to it. Below are excerpts from our Bylaws Article VII concerning Committees.

Section 1. Creating Committees. Committees of the Corporation, both standing committees and special committees, may be created to promote the purposes of the Corporation and shall consist of members of the Corporation and employees of the Department of Education with their number, jurisdiction, method of selection, and tenure determined in accordance with the IASFAA Policies and Procedures Manual.

Section 2. Standing Committees. The Corporation shall have the following standing committees: By-Laws, Finance, Membership, Nominations and Elections, Program, and Site. The President-Elect shall have the responsibility of selecting a Co-Chairperson to serve with and assist the Chairperson. Such Co-Chairperson shall automatically become the Chairperson when the President-Elect assumes his/her scheduled term as President. The President-Elect may choose not to appoint a Co-Chairperson if he/she wishes to retain the existing Chairperson during his/her term as President.

# Diversity Task Force is now an IASFAA Standing Committee!

Section 3. Special Committees. Special committees may be created to promote the purposes of the Corporation or to carry out necessary functions of the Corporation: Creation of such committees, their jurisdiction, and the number, selection, and tenure of their members shall be the responsibility of the President subject to the approval of the Executive Council. The existence of such committees will terminate upon the expiration of the term of office of the President who appointed such committees.

Section 4. Meeting Attendance. Committee Chairpersons are required to attend all Executive Council Meetings unless notified otherwise by the President. Chairpersons consistently not in attendance may be asked by the President to relinquish their position.

The Diversity Committee began as a Task Force in 2020 when Beth Davenport was IASFAA President and was continued by current President Brandi Miller. Per IASFAA Policies and Procedures, a task force is a committee that terminates upon the expiration of the term of office of the President who appoints it. Below is an excerpt from IASFAA Policies and Procedures on Task Forces.

**TASK FORCES PURPOSE:** Task Forces may be created by the President. They are intended to be short term committees focused on one specific task. The existence of such committees shall terminate upon the expiration of the term of office of the President who appointed the task force.

Before the Business Meeting, diversity work was being done through a task force, but since we believe diversity to be a lifelong reality requiring an ongoing commitment, the task force members proposed that the task force become a committee. We believe having a Standing Committee will ensure the work towards diversity, equity, and inclusion is incorporated into the Mission of IASFAA and will not be forgotten. It also moves IASFAA in a direction that closely aligns with the efforts of MASFAA and NASFAA. MASFAA has a Diversity Committee, and NASFAA has a Diversity Officer.

All Standing Committees are listed by name in IASAA's Bylaws. Adding a Diversity Standing Committee requires amending the Bylaws, which requires a majority vote by the membership. Below are excerpts from Bylaws Article VIII concerning Amendments to Bylaws.

# Diversity Task Force is now an IASFAA Standing Committee!

## ARTICLE VIII, AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

Section 1. Proposals to amend the Articles of Incorporation and/or the By-Laws may be initiated by the Executive Council, a duly constituted committee of the Corporation, or any member of the Corporation. Such proposals must be in writing and, if initiated by an individual member, must be signed by at least (5) regular members. Copies of such proposed amendments shall be delivered to the Secretary and distributed to all members of the Corporation at least thirty (30) days prior to any meeting called to conduct official business of the Corporation.

Section 2. The Articles of Incorporation and/or the By-Laws may be amended by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Corporation voting. And there you have it, how a Task Force become a Standing Committee!

The Committee's efforts this year include(d):

- Coordinating an interest session about "Hidden Disabilities" at the fall conference.
- Creating a committee description and duties for the Policies and Procedures manual.
- Including a Tribal Land Acknowledgement in the fall conference program booklet.
- Creating the Genevieve Watson Diversity Award.
- Providing a Transgender Day of Remembrance presentation to IASFAA on Nov. 21.
- Collecting and publishing members' winter celebrations for the IASFAA Informer.

Committee members include: Shelly Adams (chair), Taylor Beyal, Jess Graham, Angela Lyon, Brandi Miller, Suman Rose, and Harper Sarasin.

We're always looking for new members, and would be pleased if you would consider joining the new Diversity Committee!

# Announcements



**Brenda Buzynski** has been hired as the new director of the Office of Student Financial Aid at the **University of Iowa**. Brenda is taking over for Cindy Seyfer. Brenda previously worked in the University of Iowa financial aid office as the Senior Associate Director of Systems and Awarding.

**Sarah McKee** started in October as a financial aid advisor at the **University of Iowa** in the advising, financial literacy and outreach area. Sarah previously taught at Lone Tree High School and is new to financial aid, we are excited to have her on our staff!



**Vanessa Wiest** transitioned from being a Financial Aid Advisor to the Communications Manager within the Office of Student Financial Aid at the **University of Iowa**. She started on September 21, 2022.

**Kim Diercks** will retire from **Wartburg College** at the end of December.

**Brandi Miller** was selected for the NASFAA Diversity Leadership Program for 2022-2023

# Member Voices

**From Brandi Miller – IASFAA President (Drake University)**

## Sweet Potato Pie

1 pound sweet potatoes (about 3 medium; 2 cups mashed)  
6 tablespoons butter softened  
14 ounces sweetened condensed milk  
2 eggs beaten  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg  
pie crust  
whipped cream (optional)



Directions:

You can bake or boil your sweet potatoes.

Remove skin from potatoes and add all ingredients. Mix well and pour into pie crust of your choosing.

Bake on 350°F for 30 to 40 min

Use fork or toothpick to make sure center of pie is done, it should come out clean.

Cool and serve with or without whipped cream

**From Carin Carstens - Scholarnet**

I have the BEST corn casserole dish. If you love corn bread, you will love this. J

## Baked Corn

2 can cream corn  
2 can whole corn – Drain 1 can and not the other.  
2 cups sour cream  
½ onion chopped  
1 stick of butter  
3 eggs  
2 box Jiffy Cornbread Mix

Mix everything together and pour into 9x13 greased pan. Saute the onions in the butter first before adding into the mix. Bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees.

# Member Voices, cont.

From Heather Lillibridge, SCC Financial Aid Specialist

## Turkey Pot Pie Bubble Up Bake

### Ingredients

- 3 cups shredded/ cubed Turkey
- 2 (10 ½ oz each) cans Cream of Chicken with Herbs soup
- 3 cups frozen Mixed Vegetables (peas, carrots, corn, green beans)
- 2 cups shredded Colby-Monterey Jack Cheese
- 1 (16.3 oz 8 count) can refrigerated Pillsbury Grands Flaky Butter Tastin' Biscuits
- 2 Tablespoons Butter

1. Preheat oven to 375

Lightly spray a 13x9 glass baking dish with cooking spray

2. In a large bowl, combine Turkey, Soup, Mixed Vegetables, and Cheese Mix

3. Pour mixture into the baking dish. Spread evenly

4. Separate Biscuits. Cut each biscuit into four pieces.

Melt Butter. In a medium sized bowl, coat biscuits in butter

Spread Biscuit pieces evenly over mixture

5. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until biscuit pieces are thoroughly baked and center of casserole is bubbly.

Recipe is from:

<https://www.pillsbury.com/recipes/chicken-pot-pie-bubble-up-bake/d7299f51-4c00-4b53-ac33-25dc4abd11f1>

## Connect with us!

Please send content suggestions or member updates to  
[tristan.lynn@iowa.gov](mailto:tristan.lynn@iowa.gov).



Like the IASFAA page on Facebook for more  
updates and photos!

# Member Voices, cont.

Gary and Shelly Adams

We usually have a typical Thanksgiving for any of our family who can make it, and this year was pretty special so I wanted to brag on it a little bit! [Thanks for humoring me!] Gary's daughter Gretchen came from Boston with her girlfriend Jami, and his granddaughter Jewelisa was able to join us for a couple of days, as well. My son and his fiancé stayed a couple of days, and Gary's oldest daughter Sarah joined us for Thanksgiving dinner. Having a blended family isn't always easy, but we evidently have amazing children who genuinely care for each other and enjoy being together. We couldn't be more grateful - we are very blessed.

And in the spirit of being thankful, our thanks to all of our IASFAA family for the prayers and support we've received. If anyone is interested, here is Gary's CaringBridge site: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/garyadams3411>.

We hope everyone enjoyed a lovely Thanksgiving!  
Gary and Shelly

