

Climbing Higher Together!

NCASFAA Intermediate
Aid Workshop
Spring 2025





Hello and Welcome to NCASFAA Spring Conference and this year's Intermediate Aid Workshop. Today, we gather as leaders, innovators, and advocates in the field of financial aid—each of us committed to a shared mission: making higher education accessible and affordable for all students.

In a time when the landscape of financial aid is rapidly evolving – whether through policy changes, technological advancements, or increasing student needs—our roles have never been more critical. We are not just administrators of aid; we are architects of opportunity, ensuring that finances are not a barrier to education but a bridge to success.

This workshop is a chance for us to engage in meaningful discussions, share best practices, and collaborate on solutions that will shape the future of student support. Over the course of Sunday and Monday, we'll hear from leaders, engage in strategic conversations and gain insights that will empower us to better serve our institutions and, most importantly, our students.

Thank you for being here, for the work you do, and for your dedication to student success. Let's make this workshop a productive and inspiring experience.

Welcome and let's get started!!

Sincerely,



Lee Bray
2024-25 NCASFAA President



Andrea Blount
2024-25 NCASFAA Intermediate Aid Chair

NCASFAA Spring 2025 Intermediate Aid Workshop
AGENDA
with Session Moderators

Sunday, April 6, 2025	Event	Individual(s)
12:30pm – 1:00pm	Welcome / Ice Breaker	Andrea Blount, Intermediate Aid Chair, Wake Technical Community College
1:00pm – 1:05pm	Introduction of Dana Kelly	Preston Dodson
1:05 pm – 2:05pm	Satisfactory Academic Progress	Dana Kelly, NASFAA
2:05pm – 2:10pm	Introduction of Bruce Blackmon	Kathleen Roebuck
2:10pm – 3:10pm	Where ideas flourish, Support is key	Bruce Blackmon, UNC-Charlotte
3:10pm – 3:25pm	Break	
3:25pm – 3:30pm	Introduction of Dana Kelly	Casey Wallen
3:30pm – 4:30pm	Verification	Dana Kelly, NASFAA
4:30pm – 5:00pm	Step up, stand out, get involved	NCASFAA Board Members
5:00 PM	Closing/Dinner on Your Own	Andrea Blount, Intermediate Aid Chair, Wake Technical Community College
Monday, April 7, 2025		
7:30am – 8:30am	Breakfast	
9:00am – 9:30am	Recap Discussion and Icebreaker	Andrea Blount, Intermediate Aid Chair, Wake Technical Community College & Sherlock McDougald, Edgecombe Community College
9:30am – 9:35am	Introduction of Heather Boutell & Leigh Hussey	Van Denton
9:35am – 10:35am	Professional Judgement	Dr. Heather Boutell, Vanderbilt School of Medicine & Leigh Hussey, University of West Georgia
10:35am – 10:40am	Introduction of Andrea Blount	Kevin McNamar
10:40am – 11:45am	Let's use our collective expertise too...	Andrea Blount, Intermediate Aid Chair, Wake Technical Community College
11:45AM	Closing	

Intermediate Aid Workshop Speakers

NCASF AA extends its deepest gratitude to our esteemed presenters and speakers. Their insights, expertise, and passion have made a lasting impact, inspiring and enlightening us all. Their time and effort in sharing valuable knowledge are truly appreciated, and we are grateful for your willingness to share that knowledge. Your dedication to your craft has made this event a meaningful and enriching experience for all in attendance.

Bruce Blackmon



Director of Financial aid at UNC-Charlotte and has been in the financial aid profession for over 29 years. Bruce has helped thousands of students in his career and enjoys the challenge of the ever-changing world of federal regulation. He earned his undergraduate degree from Coker College and a graduate degree from UNC Pembroke. Bruce is originally from Hartsville, South Carolina, and is always on the road between Laurinburg, NC, and Charlotte. His wife is a Nurse Practitioner with the Carolinas Hospital System.

Dr. Heather Boutell

Dr. Heather Boutell is the Director of Financial Aid at Vanderbilt School of Medicine in Nashville, TN. Heather has worked in the field of financial aid for 33 years, spending the last 6 years as Director of Financial Aid at Vanderbilt School of Medicine. Heather has been active in professional organizations and served as the President of the Kentucky Association of Student Aid Administrators in 2004-2005 and President of the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators in 2008-2009. She has served on the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) Board of Directors several times in appointed and elected positions. She received the KASFAA and SASFAA Distinguished Service Awards, and the NASFAA Regional Leadership and Meritorious Achievement Awards for her contributions to the profession. Heather earned her Bachelor of Music Education at Kentucky Wesleyan College and her Master of Education in College Student Personnel Services and College Counseling at the University of Louisville. She recently earned her Ed.D. at Lipscomb University. Heather, her husband Steve, and cat Crouton reside in Lebanon, TN. They have two adult sons who both live in Chicago. For fun, Heather loves reality TV competition shows – ask her about Survivor, Top Chef, or Amazing Race!





Dana Kelly

Dana Kelly currently serves as the vice president of professional development and institutional compliance for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). In this role she oversees all products and services assigned to the Training and Regulatory Assistance, Certification and Credentialing and meetings departments, supervises DC-based and remote training staff, manages the annual Leadership & Legislative Conference & Expo, serves as the primary logistics manager for NASFAA's national conference, including session content, and oversees NASFAA's corporate partner area. As a member of NASFAA's executive team, she is instrumental in ensuring NASFAA is working toward the vision, mission, and goals established by NASFAA's Board of Directors. Dana has over 30 years' experience working within the financial aid community. Prior to working at NASFAA, she held positions at Nelnet Diversified Solutions as a national trainer, at Nelnet as a regional director, and at High Point University as the director of student financial planning. She holds a Bachelor of Science in justice and policy studies from Guilford College, a Master's Degree from University of Phoenix in organizational management, and master's in public administration from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Leigh Hussey

Leigh Ann Hussey is the Director of Financial Aid at the University of West Georgia and is currently serving as the SASFAA President. A native of Mississippi, Leigh Ann held positions at both Itawamba Community College and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College before venturing to Georgia for a total of 16 years of experience in the financial aid profession. In her free time, Leigh Ann enjoys live music, college sporting events, and spoiling her pets - Truvy Willadene the dog and Carl Dean the cat.

