

# THE NCASFAA BEACON

## ***Election 2009 - Special Edition***

Our Nominations & Elections Committee has put together a great slate of candidates for our open positions next year. Learn more about the candidates inside this issue. Further details about online voting are coming soon.

### ***2009-2010 Slate of Candidates***

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# Paul Coscia, Guilford College

## President-Elect Candidate



I would like to thank the Nominations & Elections Committee for the opportunity to run for President. A mere few paragraphs cannot express what I have gained throughout my experience, both professionally and personally, as a result of being a member of NCASFAA. My journey in NCASFAA began as a member, then a volunteer, then a trainer, two years as Treasurer, and currently as the Legislative Advisory Chair. Whenever the tides of financial aid shifted NCASFAA was there to both educate and support me. As a result, not only I but also our students benefitted.

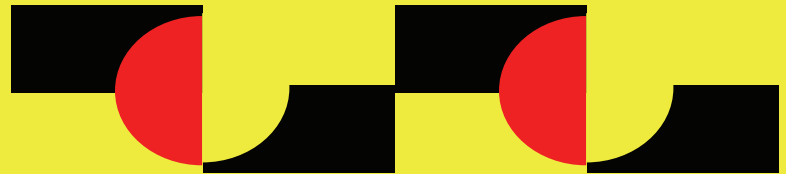
I feel that my experience with NCASFAA as an involved member and as the Treasurer have prepared me, along with the Board, to continue our mission to support and further educate our membership. In doing so we can assure that the students of North Carolina continue to receive the best possible assistance. I will continue the relationships that have been forged with our fellow organizations throughout the country. It is crucial that we continue to be a voice both regionally and nationally in student financial aid.

So much has changed in our field since I started in 2000. We can be assured that the changes are going to keep occurring given the economy, the recent reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, and new administrations in both Washington D.C. and Raleigh. I would be honored to serve as your President and, along with the Board, assure that we are prepared to handle all those changes, and in turn continue to provide the best service to our students.

### Employment

Assistant Director of Student Financial Services  
Guilford College  
2000 – Present

Business Manager  
RHA Health Services, Inc.  
1996 – 2000



### Organizations

**NCASFAA**  
Legislative Advisory Chair  
Treasurer  
Trainer

**Fellowship Hall Treatment Center**  
President of Council Board

**SASFAA**  
Legislative Advisory Committee

**ARC of Greensboro**  
Board of Directors



## **Cynthia Grant, North Carolina Central University President-Elect Candidate**

To be nominated as President-Elect is an honor that I humbly accept. The responsibility to continue the direction of this great association is a charge that should not be taken lightly. NCASF AA's esteemed history and reputation has been the foundation that will continue to move the membership forward given the economic times that are prevalent today. This association's foundation is solid and the economic winds of change and its challenges shall past.

But in the meantime, we need a strong commitment from our membership to continue to support the mission of NCASF AA. Therefore, I am committed to the charge as President-Elect with a determination to continue in a direction toward excellence. My commitment is evident in my service to NCASF AA while serving as a volunteer, presenter and board member for the past five years. Since the first year that I was a member of NCASF AA in 2003, I have volunteered and served in many capacities and I was a recipient of the New Member and the Shining Star Awards.

One of the main reasons I would like to serve this great organization is the opportunity to work with people and build relationships. In this economic time it is important to build strong relationships and ties within the association. The strength of NCASF AA has always been the membership! As President-Elect I want to inspire trust that the Board will consider what is best for the profession. New fiscal restraints may change the way we conduct training and have conferences. If elected, I pledge to maintain the confidence of the membership that NCASF AA will continue to move forward as an organizational leader in financial aid training and professional development.

### **Employment**

Associate Director, Scholarships and Student Aid  
North Carolina Central University  
2008-Present

Associate Director Financial Aid  
UNC-Wilmington  
April, 2002 - December, 2007

FWS/Scholarship Coordinator  
Columbus State Community College  
1996-2000

Financial Aid Counselor  
Columbus State Community College  
2000-2002

Acting Director, Financial Aid Office  
Columbus State Community College  
1999-2000

Various Positions  
Columbus State Community College  
1987-2002

### **Professional Membership**

North Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
National Association of Financial Aid Administrators  
Southern Association of Financial Aid Administrators

***Continued (page 4)***



**Cynthia Grant, North Carolina Central University**  
**President-Elect Candidate (Continued from page 3)**

**Past Memberships**

Member of the National Student Employment Association  
V.P. for Membership on Midwest Student Employment Association Board  
SE. Regional Representative and member of the Ohio Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
Member of Association of College Administrator Professionals  
Member of Closing Gap Task Force at Trask Elementary School  
Member of Black Faculty and Staff Committee, UNCW  
Member of College Opportunities and Great Expectations Committee, UNCW  
Student Affairs Assessment Committee  
Enrollment Services Sub Committee  
Scholarship and Student Aid Management Team  
Registration Committee Subcommittee  
Admissions Standards Subcommittee

**Co-Chair/Chair Commitments**

Registration Chair Taste the Future Committee (annual fund raiser), CSCC  
Co-Chair Black Faculty Staff Committee, UNCW  
Chair Diversity Committee, NCASF AA  
Chair Program Committee, Durham Conference, NCASF AA  
Chair State High School Relations Committee, NCASF AA

**Leadership Training**

Graduate of Kaleidoscope Leadership Institute for African American  
...Women Administrators/Faculty in Higher Education, CSCC  
People are Worth Serving (PAWS) Customer Service Trainer – Advanced Connections Noel Levitz, CSCC  
NASFAA Train the Trainer – NASFAA Trainer, NCASF AA  
SASF AA Leadership Symposium, NCASF AA

**Awards**

Kudos Award for Default Aversion Program at UNC-Wilmington  
Staff Member of the Month – Columbus State Community College  
1999 Team Excellence Award of the Month and Year Columbus State Community College  
North Carolina Association of Financial Aid Administrators - New Member Award, 2005  
North Carolina Association of Financial Aid Administrators – Shining Star Award, 2008



**Christy Chesnut, Salem College**  
**Vice President Candidate**

Thank you for the opportunity to run as NCASF AA Vice President. Since first becoming a member of NCASF AA, I have been active with this wonderful association. I have served as membership chair, secretary, publications and publicity chair, and most recently, fall conference chair.



According to the policies and procedures manual, “the Vice President is the liaison between new members and the Association.” The role also works with NASFAA training. I am confident that I could fulfill all the duties of the Vice President. I would also complete all the tasks with one thing in mind ... each individual’s service to NCASF AA and the financial aid profession is what will make each of us thrive.

Thank you again for this amazing opportunity.

## **Ronnette Hamilton, NC A&T University Secretary Candidate**

It is with great pleasure that I accept the nomination of secretary for NCASFAA. When I first began working in financial aid I was amazed about the amount of support I received from my colleagues in this profession. After attending my first NCASFAA conference I was ready to get involved. Since that time I have been increasing my involvement in the organization and I am still amazed at what we are able to accomplish as a group.

As a member of NCASFAA, I have been active as the Chair for Intermediate Training, as a NASFAA Trainer and I have assisted with multiple activities behind the scenes in the organization. We have seen a lot of changes in our profession over the past 2 years and more change is coming. As we continue on this journey, I would like to be a part of the team to ensure that as we switch lanes at various speeds and times, we continue to ensure that the students of North Carolina are not left behind and we are able to provide them with excellent service.

As your NCASFAA secretary I will always work hard to do my very best to serve you in our organization.

### **Employment**

Associate Director of Financial Aid  
North Carolina A & T State University  
Greensboro, NC  
2007 – Present

Director of Financial Aid  
Salem College  
Winston – Salem, NC  
2006 – 2007

Assistant Director  
UNC Greensboro  
Greensboro, NC  
1999 – 2006

Financial Aid Counselor  
UNC Greensboro  
Greensboro, NC  
1997 – 1999



### **Organizations**

NCASFAA  
Intermediate Aid Officer Co- Chair  
New Aid Officer Committee member

NCSEAA  
Trainer 2006-2008

NASFAA  
Train the Trainer Program



## **Janice Waugh, McNair Educational Foundation Secretary Candidate**

Thank you for the opportunity to run for Secretary of NCASFAA. I have worked for the Robert and Janice McNair Educational Foundation for 16 ½ years as the Assistant Director of Career Development. I have worked in financial aid since 1992 and have been a member of NCASFAA since 1997.

### ***Some of my professional accomplishments and involvement includes:***

- Attended New Aid Officers Summer Workshop in 1997 at Millsap College
- Executive Board member in 2005 as Chair of the Professional Development Support Staff Committee
- Attended NCASFAA Leadership Symposium in 2005
- Served on program committees for NCASFAA and SASFAA
- Completed an internship in the Financial Planning Office at Gardner-Webb University in 2000
- Certified Volunteer Administrator with NCAVA (North Carolina Association of Volunteer Administrators)
- Leadership Rutherford graduate in 2003
- Completed the Program in Nonprofit Management through Duke University in 2002
- Treasurer for Volunteer Rutherford since 1999
- Have served and continue to serve on a number of advisory boards and committees in Rutherford County
- Active member of Tanner's Grove United Methodist Church

I am flattered by the nomination and appreciate your support. If elected, I will do my best for NCASFAA.

# **Teresa Williams, Wingate University**

## **Treasurer-Elect Candidate**



I am grateful to the Nominations and Elections Committee for allowing me the opportunity to run for Treasurer-Elect for NCASFAA. Having been a part of such an important and vital association as NCASFAA for the past ten years has fostered professional growth while providing me the chance to develop relationships with colleagues that have proven invaluable.

The coming years are certain to bring unprecedented changes and challenges to our profession and to our association. Being good stewards with NCASFAA funds will be essential in maintaining a strong viable organization - one that is prepared to educate both new and seasoned financial aid personnel and is dedicated to the advancement of our profession.

As Treasurer-Elect, I would be committed to learn all aspects of the Treasurer position to ensure a seamless transition. I am dedicated to work diligently to provide NCASFAA with my very best.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

### **Employment**

Wingate University	01/2000 - Present	Director: Student Financial Planning
Stanly Community College	01/1996 - 12/1999	Financial Aid Director
Carolinas College of Health Sciences	04/1995 - 12/1995	Financial Aid Officer
Ogden-Weber Applied Technology Center	02/1986 - 06/1995	Financial Aid Coordinator
Rutledge College	01/1983 - 11/1985	Financial Aid Officer

### **Organizations**

NCASFAA  
Vice-President  
Conference Committee  
Chair: Budget and Finance  
Secretary  
Presenter

UASFAA (Utah Association)  
Secretary / Treasurer



***Sherri Avent, NC A&T University  
Four-Year Public Sector Representative Candidate***

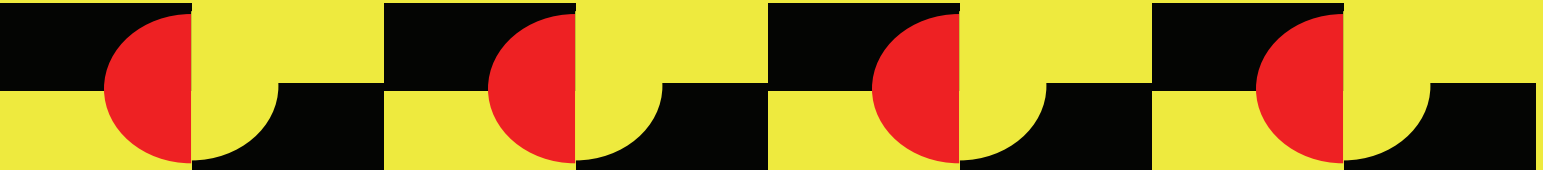
It is with gratitude that I accept the nomination to serve the Association in the position of Four-Year Public Sector Representative on the Nominations & Elections Committee for the 2009-2010 year. Service to NCASF AA is an integral component of the financial aid profession. I have served the Association in various capacities and have enjoyed the duties of each position. It is the dedication and commitment of our members that makes serving rewarding. I would work diligently to find members to serve the Association.

Your support in electing me as the Four-Year Public Sector Representative on the Nominations & Elections Committee is greatly appreciated. I welcome the opportunity to serve the Association and one day requesting your service.

Sherri Avent  
Director of Student Financial Aid  
NC A&T State University



**NAASF AA Service**  
NCASF AA Executive Board  
Program Committee Member  
Site Selection Chair  
New Aid Officers Chair and Presenter  
Diversity Committee Member  
Conference Committee Member  
Budget & Finance Committee  
State and High School Relations Committee



***Bettie Westbrook, East Carolina University  
Four-Year Public Sector Representative Candidate***

I appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Nominations committee as a representative for the Four-Year Public Sector. I have previously served on this committee as a representative for the Independent sector during my 16 year employment with Barton College. I would be privileged to serve as a representative for the Four-Year Public sector now as an employee of East Carolina University.

I have been a member of NCASF AA since 1992 and have previously been a member of the conference and program committees. I have also participated in many financial aid workshops across the state as a trainer and have served on various committees for College Foundation and was a member of the School Advisory Council for ECMC.

I am currently employed as the Associate Director of Financial Aid for Counseling at East Carolina University. I oversee all counseling and reception functions and work as a liaison for the University's call center. I have been at the University since August 2008. Prior to my current employment, I was the Director of Financial Aid at Barton College and was there from September 1992 until August 2008.

Thank for your consideration and for all that you do for student and families in NC.

## ***Cathy Shell, Lees-McRae College Independent Sector Representative Candidate***

Thank you to the Nominations & Elections Committee for your acceptance of my nomination for the office of Independent Sector Representative. I am the Director of Financial Aid at Lees-McRae College and am proud to serve at one of North Carolina's thirty-six private colleges and universities.

My career at Lees-McRae College spans twenty-five years and includes having served as an Alpha 101 instructor and freshmen academic advisor, cheerleading coach, Director of Student Accounts Receivable, and finally as Director of Financial Aid. Assisting students and their families secure the resources necessary to realize their goal of a quality education is both challenging and rewarding. Being a member of NCASFAA, SASFAA, and NASFAA, and having such a strong network of professionals to lean on definitely makes the job easier.

Small and mid-sized private colleges and universities across North Carolina and the nation are thriving despite the current economic downturn. As we move forward into the 2009-2010 academic year, we will all need to work harder and smarter as we decipher all of the HEOA regulations and work to bring in our new freshmen class.

I am grateful for this opportunity to serve our great state professional organization and appreciate your support.



## ***Jennifer Rone, National Student Loan Program Agency Sector Representative Candidate***



Thank you for the nomination to serve our membership as Agency Sector Representative! With my diverse background within several Agency divisions in the Student Loan Industry, I know this would be a perfect fit to serve the Membership of NCASFAA. About 10 years ago I created a student loan marketing program in Florida for a National Bank. I instantly joined the New Member Committee of FASFAA and helped win a NASFAA Award for our program. When I made the decision to move home to the Carolinas 6 years ago NCASFAA welcomed me with open arms! I have enjoyed working for a Servicer and now a Guarantor throughout the southeast and always enjoy my travels through the beautiful state of NC.

With the current state of our Economy and the changes that have not only happened but those yet to come, we need a strong representation with an open mind to lead our Association Agencies to ensure continued support of our members, institutions and most of all the students we serve. I am excited to bring a positive outlook, diverse thoughts and strong support to our NCASFAA Board and would love the opportunity to serve!

**2009** Accredited Financial Counselor – AFCPE

**1999 – 2003** Student Loan Marketing Director – 5/3 Bank

**2003 – 2005** VP of Marketing – nelnet

**2005 – Present** Regional Director of Business Development for NSLP

### **SASFAA Member**

Conference Committee  
Diversity Committee  
Vendor Committee

### **NCASFAA Member**

Conference Committee  
Vendor Committee

### **SCASFAA Member**

Conference Committee  
Charity Chair  
Vendor Committee



# ***Bridget Ellis, College Foundation, Inc. Agency Sector Representative Candidate***

I would like to thank the Nominations & Elections Committee for the opportunity to run for Agency Sector Representative. I am excited about the possibility to again serve NCASF AA. I have been an active member of NCASF AA for going on 20 years and I have truly benefitted from the professionalism, training and friendship that NCASF AA has provided to me. I have been fortunate to serve in many diverse capacities within NCASF AA and I feel that this experience will ensure my ability to serve in this role. If elected, I will do my best to continue the Association's commitment to electing and maintaining the greatest list of candidates to manage this great Association.



## **NCASF AA/SASF AA Experience**

- NCASF AA Secretary
- NCASF AA Conference Chair, Fall and Spring
- NCASF AA Conference Committee
- Professional Development Committee including, New Aid, Intermediate and Support Staff Agencies Committee Chair
- NCASF AA Leadership Symposium Chair
- NC Representative for SASF AA Conference Committee
- Lender Liaison for NCASF AA Board
- NCASF AA Diversity Committee
- NCASF AA Membership Chair
- SASF AA Local Arrangements co-chair
- Lender Representative for SASF AA New Aid Officers Summer workshop
- NC representative for SASF AA Conference Committee

## **Work Experience**

- Financial Aid Services Director, College Foundation, Inc.
- Vice President, School Relations, College Loan Corp
- Account Executive, Sallie Mae
- Director of Student Services and Financial Aid, East Carolina University School of Medicine
- Financial Aid Administrator, East Carolina University
- Assistant Director of Financial Aid, Barton College



***NCASF AA will have online elections this year and your Nominations & Elections Committee will send out further instructions soon. Also if you cannot decide who you want the next NCASF AA President-Elect our candidates will give speeches during the Spring Conference in Wilmington.***

***JOIN US APRIL 20TH - 22ND AT THE NEWLY RENOVATED  
HILTON WILMINGTON RIVERSIDE***

***SEE YOU THERE AND DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!***