

THE NCASFAA BEACON

Elections Edition

Positions on the Ballot:

- **President-Elect**
- **Vice President**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer-Elect**
- **Four Year Public Representative**
- **Agency Representative**
- **Independent College/ University Representative**

Message from the Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee



Rachel Cavenaugh, Chair of Nominations and Elections Committee

The slate of candidates for 2015-16 NCASFAA Board has been submitted to the membership. We have an excellent group of individuals running for office. Please keep an eye out for the elections information that will be out soon.

Thank you to everyone for agreeing to run.

Rachel Cavenaugh

Who's Running?

The 2014-15 Nominations and Elections Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for the 2015-16 NCASFAA Board:

- **President-Elect**
 - Andrea Simpson – Surry Community College
- **Vice-President**
 - Jason Johnson – Guilford Technical Community College
- **Secretary**
 - Lori Lewis – Warren Wilson College
- **Treasurer-Elect**
 - Karen King – Lees-McRae College
- **Nomination & Elections Committee:**
 - **4 year public:**
 - Spencer Smith – University of North Carolina at Greensboro
 - Bruce Blackmon – University of North Carolina at Charlotte
 - **Agency**
 - Laura Misner – College Foundation of North Carolina
 - **Independent**
 - Bonnie Adamson – Methodist University

Now let us learn more about our candidates!

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President-Elect — Andrea Simpson



Andrea Simpson

Thank you to the Nominations & Elections Committee for the nomination to serve as President Elect for NCASFAA. I am honored to once again be considered for this position.

I began my career in Financial Aid in 2007 when I was hired as the Assistant Director of Financial Aid and VA Certifying Official for Surry Community College. Within ten short months I was promoted to Director. While it has certainly been challenging, the work and dedication of my phenomenal staff has made it worthwhile.

NCASFAA has been an invaluable resource during my time in Financial Aid. If elected, I would relish in the opportunity to serve alongside the incredible group of folks that makeup the Executive Board and to give back this wonderful organization.

Thank you again for your consideration!

Andrea

Education:

Bachelor of Arts – Salem College

Double Major: Spanish and Foreign Language Management

1993-1997

International Masters of Business Administration- Gardner-Webb University

2002-2004

Work Experience:

Assistant Director of Financial Aid, Surry Community College Jan- Oct 2007

Director of Financial Aid and Veterans Services, Surry Community College Oct 2007- Present

Association Membership:

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)

-Member since 2007

Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SASFAA)

-Member since 2007

North Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NCASFAA)

-Member since 2007

-Vice President and Co-Chair of the Middle School Enrichment Program (2013/14)

-Professional Advancement Chair for Intermediate Aid Officers Training (2014/15)

Vice-President — Jason Johnson



Jason Johnson

I am truly honored to be nominated to serve as the Vice President of NCASF AA.

To serve my fellow financial aid administrators is a job that I am ready to pursue on multiple levels now and in the future.

I wore many different hats in the private sector before I found my calling. The one common theme in all of my previous jobs outside of higher education was customer service. That one skill is what opened the door for me in this amazing field.

I began my pursuit of a career in financial aid at UNCG on July 5th of 2004. By the time I attended my first NCASF AA conference in Durham that year I had found my career. It was at UNCG that I built my foundation of knowledge in regards to financial aid. In doing this I cemented myself into this career learning all I could about financial aid. I needed more though. I found it at Guilford Technical Community College where I became the Assistant Director of Financial Aid Operations in January of 2010. Let me say that this was the second time that I began a job in Financial Aid at the very beginning of a term. If that doesn't make you run then you are either crazy or in love. I am going to go with the latter as I have now been at GTCC for five years and in the profession for eleven. It was my honor last year to accept the position of Interim Director of Financial Aid at GTCC. With this additional responsibility I have gained valuable knowledge of the other facets of higher education administration.

I believe we are all put on this earth for a purpose and my purpose is to help people achieve their goals and dreams. Together we can accomplish anything and I look forward to many more years of serving you, NCASF AA and the current and prospective students of North Carolina.

Education:

Bachelor of Science, Communication/Advertising, Appalachian State University

Experience:

Financial Aid Counselor, UNCG 2004-2010

Assistant Director Financial Aid Operations, GTCC 2010-2014

Interim Director of Financial Aid, GTCC Nov 2014-current

Professional Involvement:

Financial Aid information sessions at area high schools, college transfer events and other public forums.

NCASF AA:

Two Year Public Sector Representative on Nominations and Elections Committee

Presenter Spring 2015 NCASF AA conference

Session Moderator at several conferences

Member of NASFAA and SASFAA

Presenter for NCSEAA New Aid Officers Training

GTCC President's Leadership Seminar

Secretary — Lori Lewis



Lori Lewis

It is a great honor to be nominated to serve NCASFAA. My financial aid career began in 2000 as the Office Manager at Lees-McRae College. When I started working at the college it was to help assist my college aspirations with tuition remission. Little did I know that my career path would be blessed with such wonderful colleagues in financial aid. As a first and only college graduate in my family, I truly feel the importance and pride in earning a degree. We as financial aid officers contribute to each and every student and family to help further their education. NCASFAA has always been a true association of support and guidance for me and I am proud to be a part of such a great state association! If I am elected, I will continue to give my best and give back to our great association that has given so much to me.

Education:

B.B.S.; Specialization in Organizational Management and Development

Lees-McRae College

2000-2004

M.B.A.

King College

2007-2009

Employment:

March 2000-Sept 2005 Lees-McRae College

Sept 2006 – May 2006 NextStudent

May 2006 – October 2008 Citibank

July 2009-July2012 Salem College

December 2012 – present Warren Wilson College

Association Membership:

NCASFAA: member since 2000

SASF AA: member since 2000

NASF AA: member since 2000

-Currently serving as Fall Co-Conference Chair; NCASFAA Fall Conference 2014

Treasurer-Elect — Karen King



Karen King

I would like to thank the Nominations and Elections Committee for the nomination to serve as Treasurer-Elect of NCASF AA.

I have been a member of NCASF AA since I joined the Financial Aid Office at Lees-McRae College in 2011. When I began my career in Financial Aid I quickly decided that I had found my calling. I have attended several conferences and have found NCASF AA to be an essential source of information for Financial Aid Professionals. It has been my pleasure to become more involved in our organization each year and it would be my honor to serve NCASF AA as Treasurer-Elect.

Education:

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration

Milligan College, TN - 2012

Associate of Science, Accounting

Mayland Community College, NC - 2006

NCASF AA Professional Involvement:

Co-Chair, Spring Conference Charity Committee 2015

Chair, Fall Conference Charity Committee 2014

Member, Conference Committee 2014-2015

Moderator, Various NCASF AA Conference Sessions

Four Year Public Representative — Spencer Smith & Bruce Blackmon



Spencer Smith



Bruce Blackmon

Spencer Smith

As a relative newcomer to the world of financial aid, it is an honor to be nominated to the Nominations and Elections Committee as a four-year representative.

Despite the humorous idea of being nominated to a nomination committee, I look forward to being more deeply integrated into the NCASFAA organization. Recently I celebrated my second year at UNCG as a financial aid counselor and NCASFAA member. It's been an odd road leading up to this career. I've served coffee, pedaled wares, rented tapes, and various other sundry jobs, but none have granted such a sense of reward and accomplishment as being a counselor and helping students.

Over the coming years I look forward to the adventure ahead, new contacts and friends to be made, and any retro cover bands to be enjoyed at future conferences. My hope is that with this nomination I will grow within the NCASFAA organization and cultivate a long and lasting financial aid career within the most beautiful state on Earth, North Carolina.

Experience:

Life, Earth, 1984 to present

Financial Aid Verification Administrative Assistant, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2008 to 2012

Financial Aid Counselor, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2013 to present

Education:

Bachelors of Fine Arts, Design, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2006

Bachelors of Science, Exercise Sports Science, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2012

Bruce Blackmon

Bruce is currently the Director of Student Financial Aid at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and has held numerous other positions in the financial aid profession in North Carolina.

Agency Representative — Laura Misner



Laura Misner

I live in Hendersonville and have been the western regional representative for College Foundation of North Carolina for almost 14 years. In my personal life, I enjoy hiking, playing my guitar (badly) and spending time with my three grandsons - playing demolition truck driver, blind woman in “Hide and Seek”, and the bad gal in police shootouts.

I'm a graduate of Appalachian State (special education) and have an MS from Western Carolina University (human resource development) – two seemingly random fields – although both are bound together by education/workforce development. I've been a special education teacher, a corporate trainer for Bridges, Inc, a secondary education coordinator for a psychiatric facility, a career development coordinator for Asheville City Schools, and a school-to-work consultant with the Governor's Office (JobReady).

I can say, without a doubt, working with College Foundation has been the best and most rewarding of all my careers as it's never the same job on any day. I've especially enjoyed the relationships developed over the years with the many financial aid professionals across the “west”. In the financial aid presentations to current and prospective students, my dialogue always goes something like this, “Get to know the financial aid professionals at your school. Their goal is to do everything possible – within the law - to help you afford college and stay in school until graduation.” We'll all reap the benefits of a stronger economy as these students become our future workforce and I'm proud to play a small part in its development!



Independent College/University Representative — Bonnie Adamson

Have an Idea for an Article?

Contact the Publicity and Publications Chair

Jamie Pendergrass
jamie_pendergrass@ncsu.edu



Bonnie Adamson

I am pleased to be asked to run for the office of Nominations and Elections Committee Representative for the Independent College/University institutions. I have been a member of NCASFAA since 1994. The support and assistance I receive from my NCASFAA family has proved to be invaluable to me in my position as the Financial Aid Director at Methodist University. I look forward to giving back to the membership in this capacity.

Experience:

Financial Aid Director, Methodist University, 1994 to present

Education:

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Methodist University 1992

Master's in Business Administration, Methodist University 2009.

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More Information Coming Soon!

There will be more election information coming soon from the Nominations and Elections Committee. Please be looking for that to come across the listserv and newsletters soon. Don't forget to vote once the polls open!

