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**Year: 2019-2020**

**Institution:**

**Voting Member Name:**

**President-Elect**

**Renee Besse – Associate Director of Financial Aid, University of Nebraska-Kearney**

Renee is the Associate Director of Financial Aid at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. She joined UNK in 1989 as a Financial Aid Technician with the job responsibility of helping the financial aid office move to an integrated software system. Although financial aid and computer systems continue to change at lightning speed, her job, which is to efficiently and effectively build, design and support programs that ensure compliance with federal, state and institutional policy and regulations, remains the same. Renee has a bachelor’s degree from Kearney State College and her master’s degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in Educational Administration. She has been actively involved in state, regional and national financial aid organizations throughout her career. Within NeASFAA Renee has served as 4 Year Public Sector Rep, Treasurer, committee chairs, committee member, conference presenter as well as receiving the Bob Minturn Award. Within RMASFAA she has served on several committees and was Chair of the Technical Track for Summer Institute. She volunteered as a Decentralized Trainer and served on the NASFAA Technology Initiative Committee. She believes in NeASFAA’s mission and hopes to continue its legacy of furthering the profession by engaging the membership with timely training, leadership opportunities and actively promoting our goals. Renee and her husband Jack currently became empty nesters with the exception of the three dogs still at home!

**Diana Oglesby – Associate Director of Financial Aid Compliance and Quality Assurance, Southeast Community College**

Thank you so much for the opportunity to run for the NeASFAA President-elect position.

I have been in the Financial Aid arena for approximately 24 years. I started out in 1991 in the Contract Loan Servicing department at NEBHELP. This department was eventually moved to UNIPAC (now Nelnet). I served as a Coordinator and Department Trainer with UNIPAC until 2000.

Early in 2000, I joined the Nebraska Student Loan Program (NSLP) as a Program Reviewer, Policy Analyst, and Trainer. I stayed in that position until 2013. I worked with the State of Nebraska’s Procurement department from 2013-2016.

Since September 2016, I have held the position of Associate Director of Financial Aid Compliance and Quality Assurance with Southeast Community College, where my primary area of focus is Title IV compliance.

In 2015, I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Communication from Doane University.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my three adult children and my eight (soon to be nine) grandchildren. I am also a photography enthusiast, so on the weekends, I spend a lot of time roaming around the countryside looking for interesting subjects to photograph.

I am so happy to be back in the Financial Aid world. Over the past two years, I have thoroughly enjoyed being on the NeASFAA Board of Directors as the Two-Year Public Sector representative and would like to continue to be an active part of this Association.

**Secretary**

**Margarita Gurrola – Financial Aid Associate, Western Nebraska Community College**

Greetings! My name is Margarita Gurrola and I have the privilege of working as a Financial Aid Associate for Western Nebraska Community College. After graduating with an AAS in Office Technologies from WNCC in 1995, I decided to pursue a Bachelor’s degree. So I started my educational transfer venture with WNCC and graduated with an AA in General Studies in 2005.  Then before I knew it, I graduated from Peru State College with a Bachelor of Science in Human Performance and Systems Management 2014. I was fortunate to obtain my degree totally online and I loved many of the classes since they relayed to everyday office duties. The instructors were awesome too! Education has always been a personal ray of hope in which I try to instill in others.

So you can imagine that returning to WNCC for me was/is an honor and I am excited to be part of the WNCC family. I initially started as a Financial Aid Technician in 2007 and gained great experience on how financial aid works. I then started as an Associate in 2012 and gained even more respect for all financial aid processes. I have gained experience in running reports, completing verifications, working with scholarships and other fun stuff. The best part of my job is helping students who want to help out themselves educationally.

During my educational/employment life I have also raised 5 children who now are all adults. They have all generated great goals in their personal, educational and employment life. I am SO proud of them all. I also have six grandsons and one granddaughter. I enjoy spending time with my grandkids, kids and family. I also enjoy reading, cooking, motorcycle riding and traveling.

**Sarah Standley – Senior Financial Aid Advisor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

Sarah Standley has worked at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln for almost five years and is currently the Senior Financial Aid Advisor. She is responsible for training and supervising UNL's work study student team, whose primary role is customer service. She is coming off her two year term as the Four Year Public Sector Representative, which was her first major involvement with NeASFAA. She had such a great experience, and she isn't ready to let the fun stop! She would love to continue being involved with the board, and she feels that the Secretary position would be a great next step. After having some involvement with the board, she now has had some exposure to Robert's Rules and she can type over 100 words per minute. She is thankful for the opportunity to run for this position!

**Sector Representation Section – Vote only for persons from your sector**

**Two-Year Public Institutions:**

**Rachel Sommerer – Associate Director of Financial Aid, Milford Campus, Southeast Community College**

Rachel Sommerer grew up in rural central Iowa before attending college first at Iowa State University, and then transferring to and receiving a Bachelor’s Degree in Child and Family Development from Truman State University in Missouri. She then returned to Iowa where she attended Drake University, earning a Master’s Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling. Following her marriage she moved to St. Charles, MO where she began working at the University of Missouri-St. Louis in the TRiO office, starting as a counselor and finally moving into the Director’s position. After 13 years, Rachel left the university to pursue part-time work, allowing her to be home with her two children during their elementary school years.

In 2013 Rachel, Sam, and their children moved to Seward, NE where Sam became the 6th grade teacher at St. John Lutheran School. Rachel started looking for another part-time position, which lead her to Southeast Community College, Milford campus – once again in the TRiO office. After two years in this position, ready for a change and the opportunity to once again work full-time, Rachel stepped into the role of Associate Director of Financial Aid, Milford Campus.

“The first three years in this position have been a huge learning curve for me. And while I continue to learn each and every day, I now feel like I have a strong enough foundation that I can expand my interests in the area of professional development and involvement. I welcome the opportunity to become involved in NeASFAA and get to know other FA professionals through this service position.”

Away from work Rachel is involved with the Seward High School Booster Club; serves on the Disability Ministry Committee at her church; and enjoys reading, watching college basketball, and attending the various activities in which her children are involved.

**Kimberly Vanosdall – Associate Director of Financial Aid, Northeast Community College**

Kimberly began her financial career in 2007 as a part time financial aid specialist at Northeast Community College. She soon realized Financial Aid was a good fit for her and took a full time position. Eleven years and a few title changes later, she is currently the Associate Director of Financial Aid at Northeast Community College. She has volunteered on the NeASFAA Professional Development and Recognition committee and the RMASFAA Entertainment committee.

Kimberly married to her high school sweetheart, Eric. They have three children Bree, Cole and Boden and a boxer, named George. They live on an acreage outside of Hoskins and are constantly on the go.

**Four-Year Public Colleges and Universities:**

**Tabitha Haynes – Financial Aid Advisor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

Tabitha Haynes is a Financial Aid Advisor for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.  While only being in her current position for a little over two years, she does have an extensive knowledge of the Federal Direct Loan program.  Tabitha is an active member of state, regional, and national associations and currently serves on the Professional Development and Recognition Committee within NeASFAA.  She plans on teaching her first NASFAA credential in February.  She is also a member of the 2018-2019 RMASFAA Leadership Pipeline.  What Tabitha enjoys the most about working within financial aid is her ability to help students and families every day, and to meet others who are just as passionate about their roles.  She has two furry children – Bear and Stanley – who manage to keep life at home just as chaotic as the financial aid office, but nonetheless, her husband of four years and her find life incredibly fun.

**Mason White – Director of Financial Aid, Peru State College**

It is an honor to be placed on the ballot for the 4-year Public Sector Representative for NeASFAA.

I began my career in Financial Aid in 2000. As a work-study student at the age of nineteen in the financial aid office at California State University, my passion for Financial Aid was ignited. I am very fortunate to have mentors along the way who have helped shape me into the person I am today. I genuinely love the purpose and mission of Financial Aid. I really can’t imagine doing anything else.

I have been charged with many titles in my years in financial aid such as Program Manager, Financial Aid Counselor, Financial Aid Advisor, Associate Director, and Director. My experience includes working at public and private institutions as well as serving as the California State University (CSU) Segmental Representative for the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA) Board of Directors.

I am thankful for NeASFAA and the professional growth and networking it has offered me. I would be honored to serve NeASFAA in this capacity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mason

Education:

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration

California State University, Chico

Work Experience:

Director of Financial Aid, Peru State College, Peru, NE

Associate Director of Financial Aid, Knox College, Galesburg, IL

Financial Aid Advisor, California State University, Chico, Chico, CA

Student Financial Services Counselor, Simpson University, Redding, CA

FA Customer Service Supervisor, California State University, Chico, Chico, CA

Association Membership:

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)-Member since 2005

Nebraska Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NeASFAA)-Member since 2017

PDRC Committee 2018

Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (RMASFAA)-Member since 2017

Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (ILASFAA)-Member 2014-2017

Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA) Member 2014-2017

2015 MASFAA Leadership Symposium Scholarship Recipient

California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA) Member 2007-2014

2014 CSU Segmental Representative