



MASFAP MONITOR

January 2026 Volume 2026, Issue 1

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Kimberly's Korner

Kimberly Meeker, MASFAP President
Director of Financial Aid
North Central Missouri College

Kicking Off the Year with Purpose, Energy, and Focus

2026 is here, and it's time to move forward together—stronger, focused, and energized.

As we begin this year together, I am filled with gratitude, excitement, and a deep sense of responsibility as I step into the role of President of MASFAP. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. It is truly an honor to serve alongside such dedicated, knowledgeable, and student-centered professionals.

In my acceptance speech, I referenced *The Energy Bus*—a concept that continues to resonate with me as we move forward. At its core, the message is simple but powerful: energy, attitude, and focus matter. They shape our culture, influence our outcomes, and determine how we navigate challenges together. As Jon Gordon reminds us, *"Fuel your ride with positive energy, and your journey will take you far."* This year, my hope is that MASFAP becomes a bus fueled by positive energy, shared purpose, and collective momentum—even



when the road ahead feels uncertain.

One of my priorities is to strengthen our association by building clearer, more sustainable policy and procedural resources for MASFAP itself. As a volunteer-led organization, transitions are inevitable, and continuity is essential. We will explore developing associational guidebooks that document roles, responsibilities, timelines, and best practices—supporting smoother leadership transitions, reducing information gaps, and ensuring members stepping into service feel prepared and supported.

The simplification of the FAFSA also gives us an opportunity to think differently about advocacy and communication. Simplification

Kimberly's Korner, *Continued*

does not always equate to clarity, and students, families, and high school counselors still need thoughtful, accessible guidance. I am excited to explore creative approaches to how and what financial aid information we share, so our messaging better aligns with the needs of those we serve.

Alongside this, we will continue strengthening advocacy efforts within Missouri by amplifying our collective voice, fostering collaboration, and highlighting the real impact of financial aid on students and families. By engaging members strategically and proactively, we can ensure our advocacy remains effective, meaningful, and innovative.

As we kick off this year, I am excited to hit the ground running and work together to make a positive impact—on our association, its members, and the students, families, and counselors who rely on our expertise. While change and uncertainty continue to shape higher education and federal student aid, I am confident in the strength of this community. Financial aid professionals are resilient, adaptable, and deeply committed to student success. Let's be intentional about the energy we bring, focused on what we can influence, and supportive of one another along the way. When we move forward together with clarity, creativity, and purpose—meaningful progress follows.

Thank you for all that you do for MASFAP and for this profession. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and energized for the year ahead.

With gratitude and forward momentum,

Kimberly

Monitor Submission Policy

Articles may be submitted by any person, company or organization for consideration by the MASFAP Monitor staff and are subject to approval prior to publishing in the newsletter. In general, submissions are made by members of the organization. The author's name should be included in the submission. The editor reserves the right to reject or edit the content of any article or information submitted.

Articles will be edited for accuracy, quality and appropriate length. Submissions may be limited to one article per Monitor, per person, company, or organization, depending on space.

Articles are intended to be informational and for the benefit of MASFAP members, not for company promotion or advertising.

If the author is unavailable or a resolution can't be reached, the editor will refer it to the committee chairperson and President for a decision about publication.

The MASFAP Monitor is brought to you by the Communications Committee.

Submissions for the next MASFAP Monitor are due April 10, 2026.



MASFAP Happenings and Tidbits



Joyous Chambers, Lincoln University: The exciting news that I have to share is that I received a promotion at work. I am now the Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Lincoln University.



Becca Diskin, Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation: My husband Brent and I started 2026 at the Buffalo National River in Arkansas. This is one of our favorite getaway places to hike the trails.



celebrate!



Patti Mathieson, Culver-Stockton College: Received a promotion in June from Associate Director of Financial Aid to Senior Associate Director of Financial Aid & Manager of Graduate Aid. I'm not sure why the title is so long! I'm celebrating by going to Las Vegas this weekend to see the Eagles at the Sphere!



RECENT CHANGES

Celebrating
— 10 YEARS —

Kaley Williams, Kansas City University: I celebrated 10 years with KCU in 2025!



What's
Happening?



Dan Dick, Washington University: I attached a photo from our trip to Arizona over the holiday break. We visited the Toadstool Hoodoos, Bryce Canyon, Horseshoe Bend, Antelope Canyon, Grand Canyon, the real-life Radiator Springs (Williams/Seligman, AZ) and Sedona.



Kimberly Meeker, North Central Missouri College: I started a foundation that supports a scholarship fund for neurodivergent students in April 2025 and ended the year with over \$11k in the scholarship fund. The first scholarship will be awarded in May this year.



Glenda White, Missouri Southern State University: I am the new Assistant Director, and I was accepted into the MASFAP Leadership Development Program this year.

≡Welcome≡

MASFAP Happenings and Tidbits



Caitlin Jewett, Associate Director at Northwest Missouri State University, and her husband Hunter welcomed their daughter Sawyer Marie Jewett to the world at 5:27am on December 3, 2025. Sawyer weighed 3 lbs 7 ounces and was 16 1/2 inches tall. After a NICU stay due to low weight, mom and baby were home just in time for Christmas and both are doing well. Side note...Mom and baby share the same birthday!



Breanna Scanlon is now the Assistant Director of Financial Aid at **College of the Ozarks**.



**COLLEGE OF THE
OZARKS**



**Kansas City
University**

Tyler Meyer is now the Assistant Director of Financial Aid at **Kansas City University—Joplin**.

Natalie's Newfoundland Adventure



Natalie Crawford, Drury University: My husband and I took his 94-year-old grandmother on a trip to Newfoundland. It was a trip home for her. She was born and raised in Griquet. Still has plenty of family connections in the area and there were a lot of folks to meet.

I didn't expect Newfoundland to stay with me the way it has. At first, it felt like I was just visiting. Sure, there was plenty to see... rugged coastlines, colorful houses, the azure blue of the Atlantic. But somewhere between the first conversation with a stranger and the last night listening to music I didn't know the words to, it stopped feeling like a trip and started feeling like something deeper.

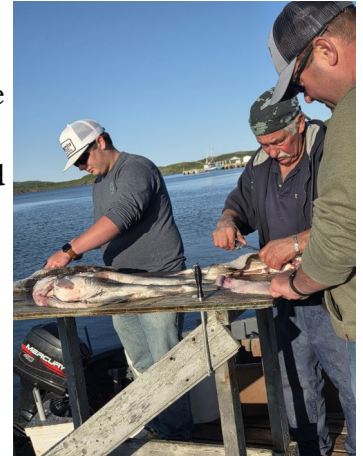
The people were the foundation. Everywhere I went, someone spoke to me, I mean really

spoke to me. Not small talk, not polite acknowledgment, but the kind of conversation that assumes you have a story worth hearing. At a local church craft sale, a lady working at the booths told me where she was from, where her people came from, and why she'd never live anywhere else. After asking about our visit, she told us a story about my husband's grandfather driving an hour to take her son to the hospital when he was a boy. She said it probably saved his life. And that's how the whole trip was...stories surfaced everywhere. What struck me was how natural it all felt. No one seemed in a hurry, and everyone was genuinely interested in hearing about our lives, too. Time moved differently...slower, but fuller.

I noticed the way people spoke before I even registered what they were saying. The accents weren't just charming; they were layered. Voices came alive. Some were very loud, and some were soft-spoken. But they were all fast and flew in one ear and out the other before I could decipher what was being said. Phrases I'd never heard before slipped into conversations. Somehow, I got the gist and (mostly) understood them. The words felt lived-in, shaped by hours of repeated stories.

The neighbors would knock and walk right in. Doors stayed unlocked. People checked in on one another without making a show of it. I began to understand that privacy worked differently there. People knew your business because they cared enough to notice it. Everyone belonged to everyone else in some small, unspoken way. When someone mentioned a problem, solutions quietly appeared. There was a shared responsibility for the wellbeing of others.

The food told its own story about comfort and continuity. The cod fish that had been caught and cleaned an hour ago was a household



MASFAP Happenings and Tidbits

staple. Every bite felt simple, hearty, and deeply tied to the place. It felt like something that made you a part of the culture whether it was the Fish and Brewis, Cod au Gratin, or pan-fried Cod. It had been eaten many times and would be eaten again, long after I'd gone home.

By the end of my visit, I noticed how often people talked about leaving. There isn't much work or entertainment. Unless you were in a larger town, there were no fast-food joints or shopping centers. Even then, there weren't many. Rarely did you see a building over two stories tall. Winters are cold, very cold. And yet, they often talked about coming back. Newfoundland seemed to pull at people, even after years away. It wasn't just nostalgia; it was a belonging. The land, the sea, the language, the shared understanding that once you stepped into it, it didn't fully let you go. Newfoundland didn't feel like a place I had visited. It felt like a place that had quietly, kindly, visited me too.



FAA Spotlight



Spotlight: Matthew Kearney, Southeast Missouri State University

What's your title, and describe your role and responsibilities at your institution?

I am the Director of Student Financial Services at Southeast Missouri State University. My role is to oversee the office that works with both the Financial Aid and Student Accounts side of things, as well as the A/R duties for the different offices on-campus who bring in money. I also work closely with other areas of campus; primarily within Enrollment Management, but also Academic Affairs and Budget and Finance to strategically plan out how we are going to spend our

money, how we recruit and retain students, and ways we can integrate processes across campus to enhance the student experience.

How long have you worked at your institution?

Almost 8 years.

What has your career path been like?

I bounced around quite a bit, prior to landing at Southeast. After graduating with my undergrad in Public Relations, I worked as an event planner and fundraiser for a Breast Cancer Organization in Chicago. After a couple of years of doing that, I realized that wasn't my long term plan, so my wife, Monica, and I moved back to Southeast to work on our Master's degree. Monica then got into a PhD program at Mizzou and I needed a job and wanted to work with students. There was a Financial Aid Advisor position open, and it was the first one I applied to and the first one that got back to me with an offer, and so that's how I began my Financial Aid journey. I was an advisor for about a year and then jumped over to the Admissions side for a graduate program at Mizzou, and after two years, had the opportunity to come back to Financial Aid as the Assistant Director over the scholarships area. Monica then got into a Post Doc program at Washington University in St. Louis, so I needed to find a job in St. Louis. Fontbonne University had been looking for a Director of Financial Aid for awhile and so I applied on a Monday, interviewed on a Friday, and had the offer Friday afternoon on my drive back. So with a bit of hesitation, I took the job. I eventually worked my way up to Associate Vice President of Enrollment and Finance and oversaw both Financial Aid and Student Accounts. Then the Director position opened at Southeast, and there was a faculty position opening in Monica's area, and it was always a place we wanted to get back to as it's close to our families, so we both applied and were lucky enough to both be hired.



As far as my association work, I've had the opportunity to serve on the MASFAP board in some capacity for several years. I volunteered with the program committee for a few conferences, then was Secretary, Vice President, Delegate-at-large, President, and just finished up as past President. For MASFAA, I've served on the local arrangements committee a couple of times, and also served as Membership chair for two years. And for NASFAA, I served as a member of the newcomer committee for the San Diego conference.

FAA Spotlight

Tell us about your financial aid team at your institution and a recent accomplishment.

The SFS team at Southeast is absolutely phenomenal. There have been a lot of changes in my 8 years here, but I can honestly say, they are the hardest working and most student centered group of people I have worked with. They face challenges together, and always have the student experience at the forefront of decisions. We've had several accomplishments over the last few months, but getting through packaging and Spring start with a week less time than usual for when classes start (we started before the MLK holiday this year which makes coming back from break a bit more strenuous) are some big wins right now. It's not always pretty, and there are always ways to improve, but they are an outstanding group of people who work together very well. We are also a pretty good time at conferences!

Do you have any mentors in your professional life?

I certainly have had people nudge me in the right direction or played a large role in my development. Nick Prewett was probably my first "mentor" in the industry simply because he was my boss and was always willing to bring me along, and I am very appreciative of that. Joseph Havis was my former VP at Fontbonne and is still someone I know I can call on and ask advice or guidance, even if we don't talk for a while. There are also many others who while not really an official, or even unofficial mentor, I am lucky to call peers who I know I can call, email, or visit with and learn something or get advice on any topic. I hesitate to name names, as I know I'll miss people, but I always like to give shoutouts. So if you aren't on here, don't take offense, but some of those folks are Janice, Bryce, Buddy, Rob, Will, Alex & Alex, Emily, Keri, Zach, Dena, Val, and the list goes on.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Knowing I make an impact that can be not only life changing, but also generational changing. Making a higher education a reality for so many students, and having a part in making it a great experience means everything to me. I know my college education provided me a lot of great things in my life, but I also know I was lucky enough to be in a situation where college was always the next step, and never an "if". My parents were very good at letting me know how lucky I was and that not everyone is in that same situation (because they both grew up in more difficult circumstances than I did), so using any sort of advantages I have, to make it better for others is very important.

What is your favorite local spot near your institution?

We don't really eat out, but I am told there is a Chipotle coming to Cape soon, which is very exciting as that is my favorite place to eat. But any place with good sushi or Chinese food is a fan favorite in our house.

Tell us a little about yourself and your family.

As far as myself, I grew up in Southern Illinois, but am a city guy at heart. I got my undergraduate degree and one of my Master's from Southeast, and a second Master's and my doctorate from Mizzou. In addition to my work at Southeast, I am a board member for our local children's museum, the Discovery Playhouse.

In regard to my family, I won't take up too much space



FAA Spotlight

here as once I get talking about them, it's hard to get me to stop. I have much to be proud of and thankful for with all of them. I have a wonderful wife, Monica, and three amazing (in their own unique ways) boys, Donovan (12), Dominic (8), and Declan (4). We are a very active family to say the least so you can usually catch us on a court, field, track, or course depending on the season. I coach a lot of their sports and am usually the loudest cheerleader from the stands if I'm not on the bench coaching (and I'm the loudest on that side too).

Our boys are also into robotics, choir, chess team, math team, and theater, so if we aren't at a sporting event, we are usually at some other practice, lesson, or competition. And if we are at home, we are usually trying to cook something they find in a cookbook (trying to raise Renaissance men who can do everything).

My parents are also only about an hour away, and will usually be at most of the events for the kids, or just visiting to spend time with us, which I am very grateful for. We also have a rather large labradoodle who motivates us to get out on runs as she needs to move a lot (so she joined the right family).

What do you like to do in your free time?

Outside of all that was mentioned above with my family, you will usually find me exercising. Going to the gym or training for an event outside is something that has been a part of my routine for many years, and if I go too long without it, I start to suffer both mentally and physically, so I do what I can to stay active. Monica is the same, so we encourage each other to get our time in. You could say a mantra for our house is, if you're moving, you're alive, so just keep on moving! Those few hours a week are about all the free-time I get, so I try to make the most of them.

What is a book, podcast, movie, and/or series you would recommend?

I don't really read for pleasure as it's never really been my favorite thing to do and I don't have the time, but I read a lot of kids books with my youngest, so right now we are on an Axel Scheffler and Julia Donaldson kick with things like Room on the Broom, The Gruffalo, The Highway Rat, and The Gruffalo's Child.

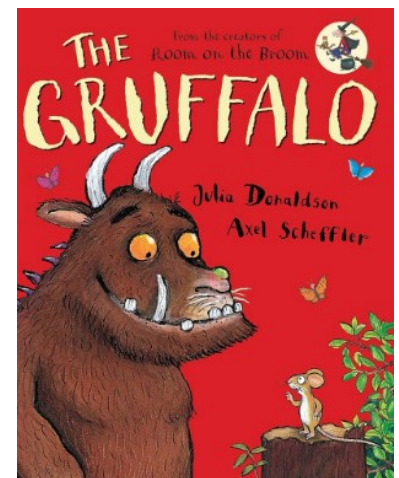
I still don't understand the appeal of podcasts, but maybe I just haven't found the right one, and sitting and watching a movie for two hours just sounds awful.

I do watch a lot of sports (usually with the sound off because it's while doing the dishes or cleaning after the kids go to bed) and basketball is always number one for me, but I will watch anything competition based (cornhole, curling, bowling, and wood chopping are some of the more obscure I have watched lately). I also love comedy, especially stand up, so I will watch any comic on any of the apps; it is truly my favorite art form. The classics like the Office, Arrested Development, Parks and Rec, etc. are usually my go-tos, and Sports Night if I'm feeling nostalgic.

What kind of music do you listen to and what's the best concert you've been to?

It sounds cliché, but I do listen to pretty much anything. But if I'm by myself, it's usually rap/hip-hop or Dave Matthews type music. You can usually hear my car coming from several blocks away as I'm not afraid to turn it up. My boys are really into Imagine Dragons and The Score, so we do listen to those quite often, but they will let me play hip-hop/rap music as long as I can find the clean versions. We have a specific play list we listen to on the way to their sporting events to get them pumped up, so I will listen to that a lot too.

As far as concerts, we don't really go to many. My wife and I usually go to a Dave Matthew's Concert



FAA Spotlight



about once every 10 years or so, and any time I get with just her and I is great, so any of those concerts would make the cut. We really want to take our boys to an Imagine Dragons concert when they come back through STL, and something tells me that will become my favorite just to see their faces light up when they see something like that live.

Do you like traveling?

Yes, and would like to do more. The kids are almost to the point we are going to get them passports so we can start doing international travel so I can show them where I lived and traveled during college. Most of our travel centers on the kids activities or where our work conferences are, but we enjoy being together and going somewhere new to find new running or hiking routes.

Tell us a fun fact or something few people know about you.

I can juggle, I was a competitive speed walker in my youth, and my goal in life is to do a 5 minute stand up routine at an open mic night, but I will probably never actually do it.

Free FAFSA Help for Students and Families from MSLF is Available

Is this your first time completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?

Curious why the FAFSA is such an essential step in planning for college costs? This presentation provides an easy-to-understand overview of the FAFSA, practical tips for completing it, and a walkthrough of what to expect both during the application and after it's submitted.

Register for January 22 5pm or January 28 Noon:

<https://mohela.zoom.us/meeting/register/Wlt3hCucQh21vzznSrqTsw>

DHEWD You Know...??

Submitted by Amy Hedrick, MDHEWD



DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

MDHEWD is the administrative arm of the nine-member Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE). The CBHE was authorized by a 1972 Missouri constitutional amendment, created by the Reorganization Act of 1974, and codified in 173.005-173.051, RSMo and 6 CSR 10-1.010(1). As the department's policymaking body, its responsibilities include:

- Appointing MDHEWD's commissioner, who is the board's Chief Administrative Officer.
- Establishing MDHEWD's policies.
- Developing Missouri's coordinated higher education plan.
- Collecting data on Missouri's postsecondary institutions, studying population and enrollment trends effecting higher education in the state, identifying Missouri's higher education needs, and contracting with Missouri's postsecondary institutions for research services.
- Administering state student financial assistance programs.
- Approving new state-supported postsecondary institutions and postsecondary programs within Missouri.
- Reviewing mission statements of Missouri's public postsecondary institutions and applications for institutions seeking a statewide mission.
- Establishing guidelines for public postsecondary institution appropriation requests.
- Establishing statewide guidelines for student admissions and transfer and policy on student residency.
- Coordinating and entering into intra- and interstate reciprocity agreements.
- Administering state statutes over postsecondary institutions operating within the state and ensuring standards are met.

Board members – representing each of Missouri's congressional districts plus one at large – are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate for six-year terms. Appointed members must have been a Missouri resident for at least the prior two years and not be employed as a postsecondary educator or administrator at the time of appointment. Additionally, no more than five members may come from the same political party. Meet our current board members here: <https://dhewd.mo.gov/about/cbhe/members>.

Members meet regularly throughout the year, either virtually or in-person. Most meetings are open to the public; find meeting information here: <https://dhewd.mo.gov/about/cbhe/meetings>. Find Board Books, which contain the meeting's actionable items, reference information, and Commissioner's Report, here: <https://dhewd.mo.gov/about/cbhe/boardbooks>.

What is one word you want to define your 2026?



Leadership

**Glenda White,
Missouri Southern
State University**

Steady

**Amber Hutton, Drury
University**

Energized!

**Kimberly Meeker, North Central Missouri
College**

Productivity

**Taylor Grimm, Missouri Scholarship
& Loan Foundation**

Happy

**Marla Fernandez,
Truman State University**

My word for 2026 is Joy. In this stage of my life with little kids and constant change, I remind myself to find the JOY in the big and small moments.

Heather Gamer, Sallie Mae

Uneventful

**Jason Enright, Stephens
College**

Flourish

**Jamie Davis, University of
Missouri-Columbia**

Growth

**Tony Lubbers, University
of Central Missouri**

I will share the 3 P's that I want to define my 2026: patience, positivity, and progress

Paula Carpenter, Jefferson College

Less

**Melissa Findley, Missouri Scholarship &
Loan Foundation**

Optimistic

Michelle Armour, Drury University

Joy

**Keri Gilbert,
Stephens College**



Analog

Dan Dick, Washington University

Proficient

**Sharon Fraser,
Missouri Southern
State University**

Possibility

**Natalie Crawford, Drury
University**

Live in the Moment

**Kaley Williams, Kansas
City University**

FAA Spotlight



Spotlight: Jeff Ford, College of the Ozarks

What's your title, and describe your role and responsibilities at your institution?

Director of Financial Aid at College of the Ozarks. Lead and provide oversight and direction for the institution's financial aid programs, funding, processing and reporting. Assist students with financial aid and financial concerns, coordinate operations with other departments and work with enrollment management team. Serve as power user for FAMS-JFA and provide input on Jenzabar VIP group.

How long have you worked at your institution?

I have been at College of the Ozarks for ten years.

What has your career path been like?

After a couple of years in the banking industry, I took a financial aid director position at Three Rivers College in 1988, then moved to a financial aid director position at Ozarks Tech in 1999 and retired from community college service in 2016. Shortly afterwards, I took a financial aid director position at College of the Ozarks. Each institution had its own unique qualities and provided great experiences in my 38-year journey.

I enjoy the people and collegiality in MASFAP which, earlier in my career, led me to serve on some committees and eventually as a Delegate with the MASFAP Board and a few years later as President-Elect, President and Past President of MASFAP.

Tell us about your financial aid team at your institution and a recent accomplishment.

There are two full time staff, Director and Assistant Director, and four students who make up the financial aid office team.

As a Federal Work College, the students work for tuition and there is a robust integration of academics with work expectations and biblical worldview to develop the whole individual in preparation for post college life. The students, on average, spend about two years in their positions during their four-year program. Therefore, we are usually working with new student staff on a regular basis.

With the prior Assistant Director moving to another position on campus, a recent accomplishment would be hiring of a new Assistant Director, Breanna Scanlon, who is an alumnus of the College with prior financial aid experience at other colleges. We continue to move forward, improve and grow a recently implemented FAMS system.

Do you have any mentors in your professional life?

When I started in financial aid, two directors in Missouri allowed me to lean on them for advice – Tony Georges (UMSL, formerly Jefferson College) and Pat Hollenbeck at Park College. I am grateful for their leadership, wisdom and advice.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Seeing the successes of so many I have helped when they walk across the stage at graduation. There are so many I can recall, some who were close to leaving and financial aid made the difference. Not just money, but advice and lending an ear sometimes.

FAA Spotlight

What is your favorite local spot near your institution?

Aside from the Point on campus which overlooks Taneycomo Lake, the Farmhouse restaurant in Branson which has great food and great blackberry cobbler.

Tell us a little about yourself and your family.

I am from southeast Missouri, where I grew up on our family farm, which my brother operates now. My wife, Angie and I met in college and have been married forty years. Angie taught special education for thirty years and is now a retired teacher. We have two successful adult children, Michael, a software engineer and Michaela, a graphic designer. Each is married and their spouses are employed, one in higher education and the other legislative affairs.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Rest and relax.

What is a book, podcast, movie, and/or series you would recommend?

A lot of choices and lots of favorites.

What kind of music do you listen to and what's the best concert you've been to?

All genres.

Do you like traveling?

Yes; our favorite is St. Augustine, FL (oldest city in the nation) where we enjoy the quiet beach and there are places to visit all around the Jacksonville, Daytona and Orlando area.

We Want to Spotlight YOU!

At MASFAP, one of our greatest joys is getting to know the incredible individuals who make up our community of financial aid professionals. Every day, you're making a difference for students and families, and we believe your stories deserve to be shared and celebrated.

In each newsletter, we highlight several financial aid administrators from across the state, giving our members a chance to learn more about the people behind the important work. Whether you've been in the field for many years or you're just getting started, we want to hear from you!

If you would like to be featured—or if you'd like to nominate a colleague—please reach out to Melissa Findley at melissa.findley@moslf.org. We look forward to spotlighting your journey, your passion, and the unique contributions you bring to our profession.



Keri Gilbert, Program: We are so excited to begin planning for the 2026 annual conference, Fueling Change with Positive Energy: Inspiration, Intention, Impact, happening November 9–11 at the Lodge of the Four Seasons in Lake Ozark. We are working toward a robust program with fabulous presenters and will host an activity or two during the year to get everyone ready—so keep an eye out for those soon! Also be on the lookout for a call for session proposals in the coming months (so start thinking now about session topics and who you would love to present with)!



FUELING CHANGE WITH POSITIVE ENERGY

INSPIRATION, INTENTION, IMPACT

MASFAP CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 9-11, 2026



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Kaley Williams, Awards: Looking for volunteers!

Tony Lubbers and Will Shaffner, Legislative: As Co-Chairs of the Legislative Committee, we would like to share that we are shifting our focus from D.C. visits to visiting our Congressional members locally. This aligns with MASFAP's slimmer budget while maximizing our outreach to our government representatives. Our goal is expanding the ability of more people to engage with their elected officials across the state. We will also continue our outreach at the state level and will share more information as the year progresses. Be on the lookout for more information!



Dan Dick, Technology: We'll always have a need for technology assistance at the Conference! - welcome additional volunteers!



Melissa Findley, Communications: Do you like to write? Or do you like to collect information and compile? We are looking for Communications Committee members to help us gather articles and information for the newsletter as well as organize the newsletter. Please volunteer for our committee! Email melissa.findley@moslf.org if you are interested or have questions!



2026 MASFAP Board and Committee Updates and Goals



Taylor Grimm, Hannah Smith, and Kaitlyn Venta, Early Awareness:

The Early Awareness Committee is the early stages of planning the Fall 2026 workshops. If you are interested in helping design the high school counselor financial aid workshops, we would love to have you join our committee. We will start reaching out to host sites later in the spring.

Join a MASFAP Committee! We Need You!

Your involvement keeps MASFAP strong and moving forward. Here's how to get involved:

1. Visit **masfap.org**
2. Navigate to **"Financial Aid Administrators"**
3. Click on **"Volunteer"**
4. Complete the **Volunteer Request Form** and select the committees you want to join!

Help shape the future of our organization—your voice and talent matter!



The Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel (MASFAP) is a dynamic association dedicated to serving and advocating for practitioners, users and providers of student financial aid programs.

FAA Spotlight

Spotlight: Missy Williams, Crowder College



What's your title, and describe your role and responsibilities at your institution?

I am the Financial Aid Director at Crowder College, responsible for ensuring compliance with all federal regulations and the timely disbursement of financial aid to students.

How long have you worked at your institution?

I have served in the director role for the past two years and have been with Crowder College for eleven years.

What has your career path been like?

I began my career in Financial Aid as an administrative assistant, then advanced to the role of Cashier's Office Manager. I also served as an academic advisor for a couple years before assuming the position of Financial Aid Director.

Tell us about your financial aid team at your institution and a recent accomplishment.

The Financial Aid team at Crowder College consists of five staff members. We are a relatively new team, with the most experienced member having three years in financial aid. Despite the many challenges the field has faced in recent years, our team works well together and has overcome our limited experience through hard work and dedication.

Do you have any mentors in your professional life?

My direct supervisor, Tiffany Slinkard, has been a great mentor to me. She is always there to help and support me and has been instrumental in developing my leadership skills. She consistently demonstrates compassion and kindness, particularly during difficult situations.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is helping students overcome financial barriers so they can access and complete their education. Seeing a student persist, graduate, or reduce their stress because they finally understand their options makes the work meaningful.

What is your favorite local spot near your institution?

I love visiting downtown Neosho. Over the past five years, it has grown and developed and now has some great places to eat and shop.

Tell us a little about yourself and your family.

I have been married for 22 years and we have three beautiful adult children. We have also recently welcomed a beautiful daughter-in-law into our family.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love spending quality time with my family and my church family.



FAA Spotlight, Continued

What is a book, podcast, movie, and/or series you would recommend?

I would recommend The Culture Code by Daniel Coyle. It is a great book.

What kind of music do you listen to and what's the best concert you've been to?

I love Christian music. My favorite concert I have been to is Phil Wickham.

Do you like traveling?

I love traveling. Most of my travel over the past several years has been related to my children's activities or work. Now that we have only one child in high school, we hope to have more opportunities to travel for leisure.

Tell us a fun fact or something few people know about you.

Many people don't know that I love to cook. Due to my busy schedule and frequent time away from home, I don't get to cook as often as I would like.



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