



Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA) Newsletter  
Fall 2025 Edition

♪ SWASFAA & LASFAA Super Conference 2025:

“Funding Dreams, Uniting Cultures — The Roots and Rhythm Tour”



The 2025 SWASFAA & LASFAA Super Conference, themed “*Funding Dreams, Uniting Cultures: The Roots and Rhythm Tour,*” brought together financial aid professionals from across the Southwest to celebrate the diversity, culture, and shared purpose that define our profession.

Hosted in the heart of New Orleans, the conference featured impactful sessions on federal updates, leadership development, and innovative strategies for serving students. Attendees also enjoyed networking opportunities that showcased Louisiana’s vibrant rhythm and roots, from engaging workshops to the unforgettable Pie a President which included our very own president and vice-president.

A heartfelt *thank you* to the planning committees, presenters, and volunteers who helped make this year’s conference a success. Together, we continue to *fund dreams* and *unite cultures* through the transformative power of education.



Pictured left to right: Amanda Brady, Bianca Hopkins, Katie Stewart, Amy Cable

Congratulations to our newly elected **2026 LASFAA Board!** We look forward to a dynamic year of leadership and collaboration under your guidance.

#### **Executive Officers**

- **President:** Katie Stewart
- **Vice President/President-Elect:** Taishieka Davis
- **Second Vice President:** Brittany Terrio
- **Treasurer:** Lynette Viskozki
- **Secretary:** *Vacant (will be appointed)*

#### **Delegates-at-Large**

- **UL System:** Alexandra Mashon
- **LSU System:** Shaina Bridges
- **LAICU/Proprietary Institutions:** Roland Keller
- **LCTCS:** Trey Clark
- **Southern University System:** Consuela Dozier

We also extend appreciation to **Past President Amanda Brady** for her leadership, dedication, and outstanding service to LASFAA during the 2025 term.

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#### **✉ Letter from the President**

Hey LASFAA friends!

I'm beyond excited to jump into 2026 as your LASFAA President! This association has brought me some of the best people, memories, and professional growth, and I can't wait to keep that momentum going. My goal this year is to keep us connected, keep learning together, and have a whole lot of fun along the way.

Whether it's at conferences, trainings, or committee work (yes, that's my friendly nudge to *get involved* 😊), I hope you'll join me in making 2026 an amazing year for LASFAA. Thank you all for everything you do for your students and for being such a huge part of what makes this organization special. Every one of you plays such an important role in helping students chase their dreams, even as we navigate the *wild ride* of ever-changing financial aid regulations. The work we do isn't easy, but it truly changes lives, and I couldn't ask for a better group of people to face it with.



*Pictured left to right: Katie Stewart, Brad Meyers*

Best,

**Katie Stewart**

LASFAA President

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#### **🌟 Letter from the Past President**

Dear Colleagues,

As I reflect on my time as your LASFAA President, I am reminded of the immortal words of Mr. Kermit the Frog in the Muppet classic *The Muppets Take Manhattan*:

*Saying goodbye,  
Why is it sad?  
Makes us remember the good times we've had.  
Much more to say,  
Foolish to try;  
It's time for saying goodbye.*

Without a doubt, 2025 has been an eye-opening and meaningful year. Partnering with SWASFAA for the Fall Super Conference taught me countless lessons, sparked new friendships, and, of course, gave us the opportunity to learn a few things along the way.

Serving as LASFAA President also taught me something about myself. I realized that I am not the leader I initially expected to be. I began this year with many grand plans to elevate our association, but quickly learned that balancing work, personal commitments, and leading an organization of our size is no simple task. While I aspired to be a dynamic, visionary leader, I discovered that my greatest strengths lie in being a dedicated worker: someone who gets things done behind the scenes. And although that realization was unexpected, it has been both grounding and affirming.

Not everyone is meant to be the queen bee...and that is more than okay. The queen bee guides the hive and lays the foundation for its future, but it is the worker bees who build, clean, protect, and collaborate to create something truly remarkable. Their collective efforts are what make the hive thrive. That, to me, perfectly reflects my experience as your president. It was only through the combined efforts of our LASFAA members that we were able to host our first in-person spring conference in March and welcome more than 250 participants to our Super Conference in November.

It has been an honor to serve as your 2025 President, and I look forward to continuing to support this organization in the role of Past President. I am excited to work alongside Katie Stewart, your 2026 President. Her leadership and knowledge will ensure that LASFAA continues to grow and thrive in the year ahead.

Sincerely,  
**Amanda Brady**  
LASFAA Past President

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### **Spring 2025 Conference: Planning Underway!**

Get ready! LASFAA is thrilled to announce that the **Spring 2025 Conference** is anticipated to be **held in person once again**, with an **exciting twist** you won't want to miss!

The Conference Committee is already hard at work designing an interactive and inspiring event filled with valuable training, hands-on sessions, and networking opportunities for financial aid professionals across the state.

And that's not all...**planning is also underway for the 2026 Fall LASFAA Conference**, promising even more professional growth, engagement, and connection.

Stay tuned for official dates and the unveiling of the conference theme!

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### **Looking to the Future: Engagement, Rebranding, and New Opportunities**

LASFAA is entering an exciting new chapter! Our focus areas for 2026 include:

1. **Membership Engagement:** Creating more opportunities for connection through membership engagement.
2. **LASFAA Rebranding:** The Publishing Committee is leading a creative rebranding initiative to modernize LASFAA's image and create a unified, professional look for all communications and materials. We can't wait to show you what we come up with!
3. **New Learning Opportunities:** The LASFAA Board is busy brainstorming new learning opportunities for valuable members in 2026, allowing members to access professional development wherever they are!

Your participation drives our success. Thank you for helping shape LASFAA's next chapter!

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### **Available Board Positions & Volunteer Opportunities**

Interested in becoming more involved in LASFAA? We invite all members to take part in leadership and service opportunities that make a lasting impact.

#### **Ways to Get Involved:**

- ✓ Join a committee aligned with your interests.

- ✓ Nominate yourself or a colleague for future board elections.
- ✓ Volunteer at conferences or special events.

Participation offers professional growth, statewide networking, and leadership development. 🙌 [Volunteer Today!](#)

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### 🎉 Celebrating Years of Service

In 2025, LASFAA proudly recognizes **19 members** who have reached significant milestones in their careers—25, 30, and 35 years of dedicated service in financial aid and to our association.



*Service Award Recognitions During 2025 Super Conference*

#### **25-Year Service Award Recipients**

La'Charlotte Garrett – XULA  
Carolyn Jones – NSU  
Stella Spiers – NSU  
Shannon Neal – Dillard University  
Victoria Jones – SUNO  
Jeffrey Massey – LSUA  
Susan Bell – McNeese State University  
Sky Cormier – McNeese State University  
Dale Miniex – University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Selena Cormier – University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Kelsey Montgomery – University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Brenda Mouton – University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Nell Votaw – Southeastern Louisiana University

#### **30-Year Service Award Recipient**

David Thomas II – LCTCS

#### **35-Year Service Award Recipients**

Bobbie Decuir – University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Laurie Herrin – LSU A&M  
Tammy Varnado – LSU A&M  
Craig Poleman – SoFi  
Brenda Kuper – Inceptia  
Michael Goodman – Tulane University

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### 🌟 Celebrating Retirement

We also celebrate the outstanding careers and well-deserved retirements of our LASFAA colleagues:

- **Victoria Jones**, SUNO – 25 years of service
- **Paula Smith**, LOSFA – 8 years of service
- **Nell Votaw**, Southeastern -- 25 years of service

Congratulations and best wishes on your next chapter. Your dedication has made a lasting difference for countless students and professionals across Louisiana.

🏆 2025 LASFAA Awards



**Rookie of the Year, Trey Clark**



**Woman of the Year, Brittany Terrio**



**President's Choice Award, Lauren Jackson**



**President's Choice Award, Taishieka Davis**



Committee of the Year, Spring Site Selection (Ann Carmichael) & Spring Program (Katie Stewart)

### 👉 Thank You to Our Sponsors

LASFAA extends sincere gratitude to our **2025 Sponsors** for their continued partnership and support of professional development within our financial aid community.

Your generosity helps make conferences, training, and member engagement opportunities possible.

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JONI LEGGIO, VICE PRESIDENT | [LEGGIO@LELA.ORG](mailto:LEGGIO@LELA.ORG)

# The Way Forward for Student Loan Borrowing Success

## LOAN SUMMARY

Improves borrowing behaviors

24/7   
ACCESS TO DEBT LETTERS,  
TOOLS & RESOURCES

## GRACE COUNSELING OUTREACH

Addresses repayment to reduce CDR

25-50%   
REDUCTION IN  
DELINQUENCY

## REPAYMENT COUNSELING OUTREACH

Outreach and counseling to get borrowers back on track

83%   
AVERAGE  
RESOLUTION RATE

### Talk To Us

Shannon Jones, AVP Business Development  
706.266.8397 | shannonj@inceptia.org | inceptia.fyi/shannonj

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We appreciate your investment in the success of Louisiana's financial aid professionals and the students we serve!

We look forward to more vendor participation this year! If you are interested in becoming a LASFAA sponsor, please visit <https://lasfaa.memberclicks.net/vendors-and-exhibitors> for partnership opportunities as we will soon update it with 2026 sponsorship opportunities!

### ♥ Stay Connected

Stay engaged with LASFAA throughout the year!

 Visit our website: [www.lasfaa.org](http://www.lasfaa.org)

 Join a committee and help shape the future of LASFAA! Volunteer [here!](#)



**Brittany Terrio**

LASFAA Publications Chair 2025