



February 2022 EASFAA Update
2021-2022

Rhode Island Report to EASFAA

Executive Council:

As of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

President – Melissa Donahue – Rhode Island School of Design

President Elect - Donna Cournoyer – Salve Regina

Past President - Ellen Russo – Providence College

Vice President - Nancy Bessette – Rhode Island College

Treasurer – Jason Martin – Providence College

Secretary – Francesca Savella – Johnson and Wales University

Conference:

Our June 2022 conference is planned to be in person on June 15, 2022 at Salve Regina University. We will have an EASFAA update from newly installed president Anne McDermott, a federal update from Noel Simpson, as well as special interest presentations pertaining to the fields of financial aid and higher education.

Membership:

Membership has remained steady. Our Development Committee (chairs Jenn Trauman, College Ave Student Loans, and Ben Loya, Earnest Student Loans) have been working with our vendor partners to create mutually beneficial partnerships between our member schools and vendors. They have been compiling a database of presentations offered by our vendor partners that our member schools can utilize on their campuses. The committee, along with the Professional Development and Training committee, is also working on starting a webinar series with our vendor partners, kicking off in March.

Training:

Virtual tax workshop was held between November and December with Robert Weinerman from IronBridge Resources. As always it was informative and well attended. We will be offering NASFAA Credentials training in conjunction with EASFAA. April 22 will be R2T4 and May 6 will be verification. We are excited to welcome Cathy Boscher-Murphy from Montclair and Heidi Kovilick from Rowan as our trainers, to Rhode Island.

Special Initiatives:

Updating our website to include more of our events on an easy to navigate calendar where members can click and add events to their own work calendars.

Budget:

Budget is in great shape.

Committees:

Professional Development & Training Committee (Melissa Donahue, RIASFA President, and Lisa Talbot, Sallie Mae) have been hard at work to create more opportunities for the membership. Development committee has done the same Government Relations Committee (me) is still working on guidance of how to move forward. Nominations Committee will be going out with a call for nominations for our 2022 elections – this year only position up for election is President Elect. All committees are well positioned as we move forward.

Submitted by:**Melissa Donahue****RIASFSA President**