



NASFAA 2026 National Conference Your Insider's Guide and AMA Session

April 16, 2026

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April 2026



NASFAA 2026 National Conference Insider's Guide & AMA Webinar – April 16, 2026




NASFAA 2026 Insider's Guide & AMA

April 16, 2026



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Webinar Housekeeping – Welcome!

 Audio is streaming - select the "CC" icon to display captions

 Download the handout(s)

 Submit your questions

 Visit links & resources

 Chat with attendees

 Complete the survey



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Agenda

- Welcome
- Logistics
- Session Selection
- Program Overview
- Charity Events
- Innovation Hall
- Featured Events
- Ask Us Anything!



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Welcome!



Heidi Carl

*NASFAA 2025-26
National Chair
Purdue University*



Melanie Storey

*President & CEO
NASFAA*



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Poll Question

Are you already registered for NASFAA 2026?

- Yes
- No



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Registration

	Early Bird Pricing (by May 1, 2026)	Regular Pricing (On or after May 1, 2026)
Members*	\$760	\$860
Non-Members	\$860	\$960
Retiree Group	\$500	\$500
Daily (Members)	\$380	\$380
Daily (Non-Members)	\$480	\$480

* NASFAA Value members receive a 5% discount, and Value Plus members receive a 10% discount beyond the first fully paid registration at their institution. Discount is not available for on-site registrations.

nasfaa.org/registration26



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Conference Location

Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center



201 Waterfront St, Oxon Hill, MD 20745



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Arriving to National Harbor, MD

Transportation

- Airport Options – DCA, IAD, BWI
- Train Options – Amtrak to Union Station or Alexandria, VA
- Visit the [Getting to National Harbor](#) webpage for more information

Hotels

- Conference registration is required prior to hotel booking
- Reservation deadline: May 29
- Hotel rates start at \$264

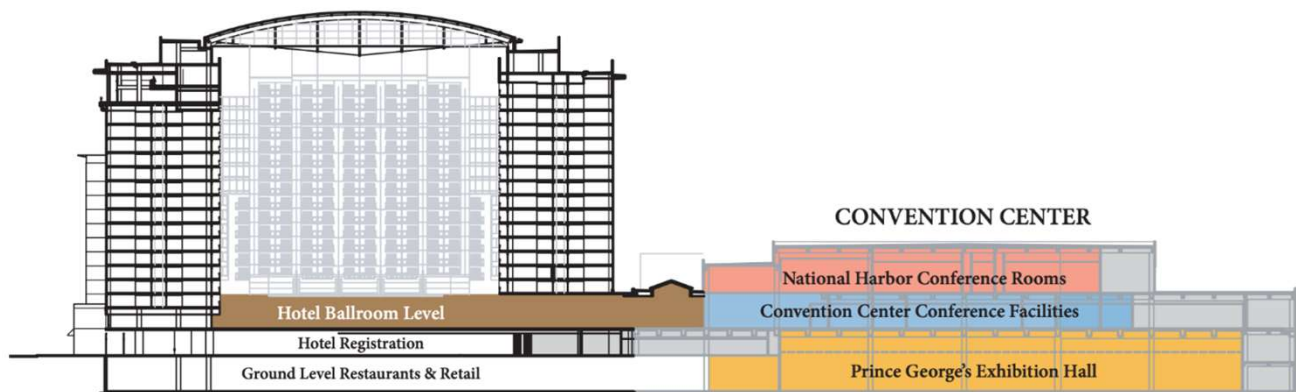
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Navigating the Conference Space



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Conference Check-in

- Self-Service Check-in Kiosks
- Registration Hours
 - Monday, June 29
7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 - Tuesday, June 30
7:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday, July 1
7:45 – 10:30 a.m.
- Don't forget to grab a swag bag!
That's where you'll find the lanyard for your name badge.



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Meet Your Match

- You'll also find a numbered pin in your swag bag.
- Attach the pin to your lanyard and be on the lookout for other number matches at the conference.
- If you find a match, visit the College Ave booth in the Innovation Hall to be entered into a prize drawing.

NASFAA 2026 60TH ANNIVERSARY
Meet *YOUR* Match **GAME**

Bring your **MATCH** to the College Ave (#200) booth to be entered into our prize drawing*.

MADE POSSIBLE BY **College AVE**
www.collegeave.com

How to Play

- Attach the match button to your neck wallet.
- Look for your **MATCH** throughout the conference (those with matching buttons).
- Come to the College Ave (#200) booth to be entered into a drawing to win these prizes:

NASFAA 2027 National Conference Registration
Amazon gift card

*Limit one prize per person. Winners need not be present to win and will be notified via email.



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New Conference Tracks for 2026

- Laws, Regulations & Compliance
- Customer Service
- Technology, Research & Data
- Business of Education
- Leadership
- Professional/Career Development
- Graduate & Professional Issues
- Business Solutions



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How Were Sessions Selected?

Conference Program Task Force

- Task force members were representative of the financial aid community
- Seven concurrent session slots
- Variety of topics
- More than 150 submissions

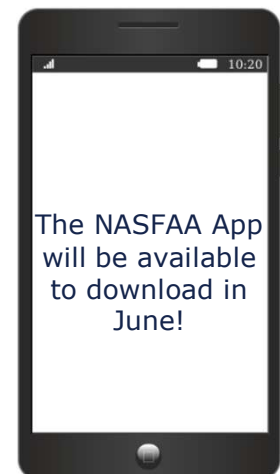


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Creating Your Schedule

Tips for Optimizing Your Experience

- Reflect on your goals for the conference
- Select your sessions
- Maximizing your sessions
- Bringing it back to your campus
- Stay on top of your schedule with the NASFAA app!



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NASFAA Credential Training

Administrative Capability

- Monday, June 29
- 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Included with registration fee
- Complimentary access to the credential test
- FAACs earn 3 RPs for attending the session + 10 RPs for earning the credential



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First-Time Attendee Kick-off

- Monday, June 29
- 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
- Networking, Fun, & Refreshments



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First-Time Attendee Mentor Program

- Invitation email & form coming soon
- The task force will match you with the best fit
- Connect before and meet in National Harbor
- Lifetime professional connection

Join the First-Time Attendee Webinar on June 3 for more information!



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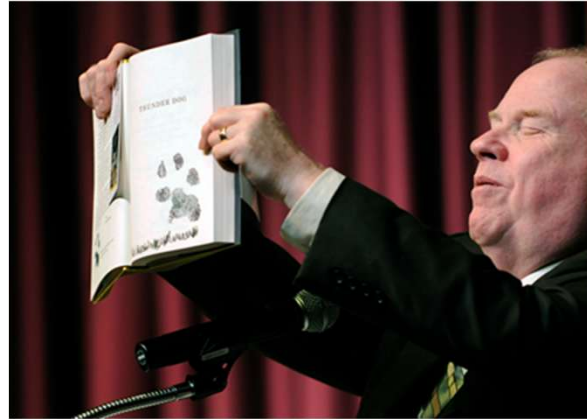
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Perspectives of Belonging

Michael Hingson

- Monday, June 29
- 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Join #1 New York Times bestselling author and 9/11 survivor for a powerful and perspective-shifting session on trust, courage, inclusion, and the power of a “can-do” mindset.



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Keynote Speaker: Mark Schulman



Monday, June 29 from 4:00 – 5:45 p.m.
Celebrity Drummer. Cancer Survivor. Rockstar Speaker.



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General Sessions

- Tuesday, June 30
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 1
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, July 2
8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
(Special prize opportunity for those in attendance!)



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Charity Spotlight



Joseph Fisher
*CEO & Founder
First Generation College
Bound*



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**FIRST
GENERATION
COLLEGE
BOUND INC.**

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Mission & Vision

To inspire youth from low-income and first-generation families to achieve social and economic success by providing advice, encouragement, and support in obtaining a college degree.

One day, every Marylander will have access to achieving an affordable college education.

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FIRST GENERATION PROGRAMS

Kimberly Gardens Homework Club: Two certified teachers come to assist students (Grades 1-12) who reside in the Kimberly Gardens, Laurel, MD, community. The teachers assist students with their homework, missing assignments and developing a winning attitude for education. 34 years

College Success Program: This program has two key components to support our students to attend college and graduate with little to no debt. 36 years

- **College Access** – Provides one on one customized advisement to students in the college bound process.
- **College Retention-** Provides students with care by providing care packages, financial aid support, advocacy and networking events with FGCB Alumni.

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FGCB 35th Annual Graduation Celebration Video (6.11.25)



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FGCB ALUMNI IMPACT



Students Entered College: **3,697**

Students Currently Enrolled In College: **2,295**

Higher Education Achievements: **1,207**

- Associate: **186**
- Bachelor's: **838**
- Master's: **162**
- Professional Doctorates: **21**

Our Alumni represent 164 colleges collectively!

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Charity 5K

- Register by May 1!
- \$30 donation required (registration & t-shirt)
- Separate registration required
- Check-in begins at 7:00 a.m.
- Race begins at 8:00 a.m.
- 100+ spots available (guests welcome!)



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Charity Trivia Night and Topgolf

- Separate registration
 - Pick one or the other, not both!
- \$15 donation required
- Tuesday, June 30 from 7:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m.
- Transportation will be provided
- Sign up for a team after registering
 - 8 person teams for Trivia
 - 6 person teams for Topgolf
- Check-in early: wristbands in the Innovation Hall



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Thank You, Charity Sponsors!



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Meet Our Solution Providers

- 60+ Exhibitors
- Breaks scheduled in the Hall
 - Grab coffee and snacks!
- Three levels of sponsorship
- Sponsorship revenue allows NASFAA to consider and create new and future initiatives and supports member resources.



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Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



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Explore NASFAA's Lounges

- Gaming Lounge
- Relaxation Lounge
- Coffee Lounge
- Photo Lounge
- 60th Anniversary Lounge

College **AVE**

earnest



Juno



Photo Opps will also be available!



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Golden Ticket

- Golden Tickets will be hidden throughout the Innovation Hall!
- If you find one, bring it to the NASFAA Booth to claim your prize.
- Please note: one prize per person.



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NASFAA Booth

- We love to connect with our members, so come say "Hi!"
- Learn about how to make the most of your NASFAA Membership.
- A special booth will also be available for First-Time Attendees.



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Featured Events



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Welcome Reception in Innovation Hall

- Monday, June 29
5:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Enjoy networking with NASFAA's Board of Directors, corporate partners, and staff.
- Light food and drinks will be available.



At 9:30 p.m., view a NASFAA fireworks display over the harbor!



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60th Anniversary Celebration

- Celebrate 60 years of NASFAA during the evening of Wednesday, July 1.
- Dress: Festive cocktail attire encouraged. Think elevated evening wear—cocktail dresses, chic separates, or a sharp jacket—with a touch of sparkle for a speakeasy-inspired celebration.



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DJ Pre-Shows

- Prior to each general session, we'll kick off with a high energy pre-show with DJ Shawna!
- Monday, June 29
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 30
7:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 1
7:45 a.m. – 8:10 a.m.
- Thursday, July 2
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.



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Awards Announcements

- Celebrate your colleagues as they are recognized for their achievements and contributions to the profession and to students!
- Wednesday, July 1
8:10 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, July 2
during the closing session



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Community Events

- Join NASFAA's new Community Engagement Manager and fellow conference attendees as they explore the National Harbor and D.C.
- Activities will include group dining, karaoke, morning walks, etc.
- Please note that participants in community events are responsible for any costs incurred, including meals, transportation, and event fees.



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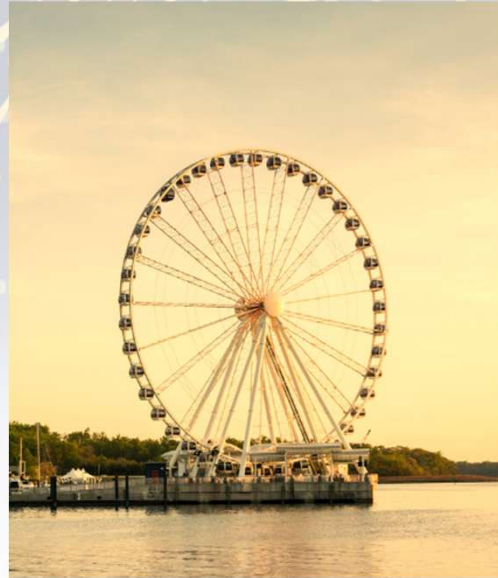


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The Capital Wheel

- Discounted tickets (\$16) will be available to purchase June 29 - July 2!
- Visit **thecapitalwheel.com**
 - Select "BUY TICKETS NOW!"
 - Select "Tickets to The Capital Wheel" and enter the number of tickets you'll need
 - Use code NASFAA2026 during checkout



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NASFAA Staff is here to help – ask us anything!



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**Thank you for attending!
Don't forget to register and
book your hotel!**



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What's next?

Please join us for the 2025-26 NASFAA Webinar Series

NASFAA's live webinars bring you the latest information, hot off the press, and allow you to actively engage with NASFAA staff and featured presenters from government, partner organizations, and fellow aid administrators.

All webinars begin at 2:00 pm ET, unless otherwise noted, and last 60 to 90 minutes. Archives are usually available after the webinar for purchase; these archives are also free to webinar package purchasers.



Webinar Schedule for 2025-26

Topic	Air Date
What's New in Federal Tax Information (FTI)	July 23, 2025
Enrollment Reporting	September 3, 2025
What is the DLP? An Overview of NASFAA's Diversity Leadership Program*	September 9, 2025
2026-27 FAFSA Update	October 15, 2025
Blue Icon Advisors, NASFAA Consulting: Hot Topic*	October 28, 2025
Academic Calendars in Action	December 10, 2025
Policy Update Webinar*	December 17, 2025
Verification: 2026-27 (Extended Edition)	January 13, 2026
Top AskRegs for PLUS Loans	January 21, 2026
Inside the Private Loan Marketplace: A Conversation with Industry Leaders	February 4, 2026
Pell Grant Eligibility Changes & Accountability for Low Earnings Outcomes: Takeaways from the OB3 AHEAD Committee	February 6, 2026
Professional Development Panel: Career Pathing in Financial Aid	February 18, 2026
Strengthening Student Support: Connecting Financial Aid, Student Affairs, and Mental Health for Holistic Success	March 18, 2026
Return to Title IV: New Regulations Effective July 1, 2026	March 25, 2026
Blue Icon Advisors, NASFAA Consulting: Hot Topic*	April 7, 2026
Graduate and Professional Community Update*	April 22, 2026
What's New in Consumer Information	May 6, 2026
Annual Business Meeting and Policy Update*	May 13, 2026
TRA Hot Topic	May 27, 2026
NASFAA Quiz Show: Test Your Financial Aid Knowledge	June 10, 2026

*Free to members, does not require purchase of the webinar package.

**The National Association
of Student Financial Aid
Administrators (NASFAA)
provides professional
development for financial
aid administrators; advocates
for public policies that increase
student access and success;
serves as a forum on student
financial aid issues; and is
committed to diversity
throughout all activities.**

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