



**National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs  
2007 Fall Conference  
Park City, Utah, October 21-24, 2007**

**Presenter Biographies**

**Melanie Amrhein, Executive Director**

Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance

Ms. Melanie Amrhein was named Executive Director of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) effective June 18, 2007. Ms. Amrhein has been employed with LOSFA since 1999, first as Assistant Executive Director for Operations (Aid Programs) and then as Assistant Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer and, most recently, as interim Executive Director.

Prior to joining LOSFA, Ms. Amrhein spent ten years in the Office of Student Aid and Scholarships at Louisiana State University as an Assistant Director and later as Associate Director. She served as President of the Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA) during 1998-99 and is currently serving on the Executive Board of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) as Immediate Past President.

LOSFA administers Louisiana's premier merit-based scholarship program, the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS); the state's 529 college saving program, the Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust (START) program; and is the U.S. Department of Education's designated guarantor in Louisiana for the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP).

**Theresa Antworth, Director, State Scholarships and Grants**

Florida Department of Education

Ms. Theresa Antworth serves as the Director of State Scholarship and Grant Programs with the Office of Student Financial Assistance, Florida Department of Education. With over 20 financial aid programs, Florida assisted over 314,000 students last year with \$600 million to afford a postsecondary education. Ms. Antworth has served as President for the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs and serves as a member of her state association of student financial aid administrators.

Prior to the past decade in state financial aid programs, Theresa served at Florida State University, Troy State University and Gulf Coast Community College in roles of financial aid policy and administration, instruction, undergraduate and graduate academic counseling, registrar, admissions and student services activities.

Ms. Antworth holds a Masters of Science from Troy State University and a Bachelor of Arts from Florida State University.

**Bart Astor, Director**

NASSGAP Washington DC Office

Mr. Bart Astor has served as a consultant and NASSGAP's Director of the Washington DC Office for 3 years. He has over 25 years of experience in higher education and student financial aid as a consultant and administrator; policy advocate; and business and policy compliance analyst. He is the author of twelve books, numerous articles, testimony, training and technical manuals, white papers, and website content on student financial aid, college admission, eldercare, corporate social responsibility, and governance.

**Jeff Baker, Director, Policy Liaison and Implementation for Federal Student Aid**

United States Department of Education

Mr. Jeff Baker is no stranger to financial aid or to NASFAA. He has been a student aid professional for more than 30 years, starting at the University of Wisconsin, at Milwaukee and including almost 20 years at San Francisco State University. Prior to entering the field of financial aid, Mr. Baker was a public school teacher in the Port Washington, Wisconsin public schools. For the past 12 years Mr. Baker has been employed at the U.S. Department of Education, where he is currently the Director of the Policy Liaison and Implementation Staff for Federal Student Aid. In that capacity he advises senior FSA management on all statutory, regulatory, and policy matters that relate to the Title IV Federal student aid programs.

Mr. Baker holds a B.S. in Management from Northeastern University, an M.S. in Education from the University of Wisconsin and has done postgraduate work in higher education administration at the University of Southern California.

Throughout his financial aid career, Mr. Baker has been an active member of NASFAA serving as a committee chair, trainer, and twice as a Commission Director. He is a past member of the WASFAA Executive Council and a Past President of the California association.

Mr. Baker is the recipient of numerous awards, including NASFAA's Meritorious Achievement Award and Regional and State Leadership Award. He has been honored by WASFAA with their Creative Leadership Award and Lifetime Membership Award and is the recipient of a Distinguished Service Award, President's Award, and Lifetime Membership Award from the California association. Mr. Baker is also the recipient of a Distinguished Service Award from The College Board.

**Gregory Alan Gerrans, LEAP Program Manager**

United States Department of Education

Mr. Gregory Gerrans began his career in government upon graduation from high school in 1987 by enlisting in the United States Navy. After serving his country for four years, Mr. Gerrans came to work at the U. S. Department of Education in the Office of Student Financial Assistance. He has worked in the areas of student financial aid program policy and regulation development, primarily with such Title IV programs as the Federal Pell Grant Program, GEAR-UP's predecessor NEISP, and the SSIG Program. Mr. Gerrans is currently responsible for administering the LEAP and SLEAP Programs, including development of operations and funding procedures.

**Craig Haslip, M.Ed., School, Student & Outreach Services**

Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority (UHEAA) / Utah System of Higher Education (USHE)

Mr. Craig Haslip currently works in School, Student & Outreach Services for the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority (UHEAA) and the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE). Mr. Haslip is directly involved with working with a number of counselor and educational organizations. He is currently on the USCA Board, and is a member of the State Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Advisory Committee. He is also a Board Member and the Education Chair for the Utah Jump\$tart Coalition which promotes financial literacy throughout the state of Utah.

Prior to working for UHEAA, Mr. Haslip was a counselor, teacher, and coach for over 20 years in the Jordan School District.

**Maureen Laffey, Director**

Delaware Higher Education Commission

Ms. Maureen Laffey began working at the Delaware Higher Education Commission in 1996 as Associate Director and was appointed Director in 2004. The Commission is an agency within the State of Delaware's Department of Education. In this position, her main responsibility is to oversee administration of approximately 20 state-funded student financial aid programs, in addition to administering 9 private scholarship programs. Ms. Laffey is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the Commission office and staff, budget preparation, policies and procedures, financial aid outreach activities, and communication with students, parents, legislators, college financial aid administrators and high school guidance offices.

Ms. Laffey is also responsible for working with the State Treasurer's Office in managing the state's 529 plan, The Delaware College Investment Plan. She is the SHEEO for Delaware, and has served NASSGAP on the Executive Committee as Secretary, President-Elect, President (2003-04), Past-President, Conference Site Chair (3 times), and is now serving as Chair of the Ed Technical Forms Committee. Ms. Laffey holds a Master's degree in Public Administration with specializations in the areas of Agency Management and Personnel Management.

**Cheryl Maplethorpe, Director, Division of Student Financial Aid Services**

Minnesota Office of Higher Education

Dr. Cheryl Maplethorpe has been the Director of the Division of Student Financial Aid Services for the Minnesota Office of Higher Education since 1991 and has worked for that agency since 1980. She oversees 16 financial aid programs with a budget that totals more than \$300 million annually. She also administers the Interstate Tuition Reciprocity programs that enable students from Minnesota to attend school in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Manitoba at a tuition rate similar to the rate they would have paid in their home state instead of the non-resident tuition rate. Students from the reciprocity states can also attend in Minnesota for near the rate they would have paid in their own state.

Dr. Maplethorpe served as President of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) from October 2000 to October 2001 and is currently the Chair of the NASSGAP Policy and Research Committee.

She has an undergraduate degree in Science and a Master's in Counseling from the University of Iowa and a Ph.D. in Policy and Administration in Higher Education from the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Maplethorpe has worked in the field of student financial aid since 1976 when she returned to the United States after teaching for three years in the Middle East. She has given numerous presentations and written many articles on the topic of financial aid including:

Hood, Albert B. and Maplethorpe, Cheryl K., New Directions Monograph: Institutional Impacts of Alternative Forms of Student Financial Aid. Chapter VII, "Bestow, Lend, or Employ: What Difference Does It Make?", San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1980.

Maplethorpe, Cheryl., "Visions for the Millennium". Midwest Association of Student Aid Administrators Newsletter, Volume XXVI, Number 2, Summer 2000, Purdue University, pp. 20 - 22.

Maplethorpe, Cheryl., "Advantages and Disadvantages of State Loan Forgiveness Programs", National Association of Student State Grant and Aid Programs Transcript Magazine. November 2001.

"Merit and Need Based Aid", NASFAA conference, Nashville Tennessee, July 2001.

"The Evolution of the Financial Aid Profession", MAFAA State Meeting, Brainerd, Minnesota, May 2000.

"Best Practices for Financial Aid for Early Intervention Students" Collaboration conference: Encouraging and Supporting Access to Higher Education for Minnesota Youth", November, 1999, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Adapting to the Future of Higher Education Financing" Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators Conference, November, 1999. Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"The Next Evolution of Financial Aid: Tax Credits, Savings Plans, Employee Reimbursement" Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Conference, October 1998, Kansas City, Missouri.

"Alternate Loan: Filling the Gap" Midwestern Regional Meeting of the College Board. February 1997, Chicago.

"How states have responded legislatively to Selected Issues" NASSGAP, October 1996, Portland Oregon.

### **Patricia "Pat" M. McDonough, Professor**

University of California, Los Angeles

Dr. Patricia McDonough is a professor in the higher education program at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research is in the areas of college access, and she has conducted research on students' choice of college, college costs and financial aid, high school counseling, college rankings, African-American and Latino students, rural college access, private college counselors, and college admissions officers.

### **Demarée K. Michelau, Policy Associate for Policy Analysis and Research**

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

Ms. Demarée Michelau is a policy associate for policy analysis and research at WICHE. The author of numerous education reports and magazine articles, she has experience in higher education policy on issues such as college affordability and access, K-16 reform, postsecondary remedial education, dual/concurrent enrollment, and affirmative action. Previously, she worked for the National Conference of State Legislatures as a policy specialist. Ms. Michelau received her bachelor's degree in Public Law from Northern Illinois University and her master's degree in Political Science from the University of Colorado at Boulder where she is currently a Ph.D. candidate.

**Dennis Obergfell, Deputy Director**

State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana

Mr. Obergfell has worked in the student aid profession for 26 years in nearly every position with his current agency. He began his tenure with his agency as a Special Assistant to the Executive Director. He then held the following positions within the agency: Scholarship and Grant Counselor, Regional Marketing Representative - Loan Program, Assistant Director - Student Loan Division, RFP/grant writer/contract negotiator, Director of the Student Loan Division, Director - Scholarship and Grant Division, Deputy Director and Interim Executive Director on five different occasions for a total of five years. Previous to working in student aid, Mr. Obergfell was the Director of a CPR Task Initiative cosponsored by the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association, and Social Work Manager with the Indianapolis public school system.

**Stephen Rogers, School, Student & Outreach Services**

Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority (UHEAA) / Utah System of Higher Education (USHE)

Mr. Stephen Rogers is a member of the School, Student & Outreach Services team for the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority (UHEAA) under the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE). Before joining the School & Outreach Services Division he held several positions in higher education. He was a financial aid counselor, an academic advisor, and a college recruiter. He has handled marketing, admissions, and outreach needs for the Financial Aid Office and the College of Nursing at the University of Utah.

**Claude Roy, Education Services Officer**

Finance Authority of Maine

Mr. Roy has over 20 years of experience in Higher Education Finance and Program administration. He worked at the State Department of Education for 10 years and has worked at the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) for 17 years. In the early years at FAME, Mr. Roy's responsibilities included financial oversight of the Federal Family Education Loan Program and the State Programs.

In 2000, Mr. Roy became the Program Manager for the grant and scholarship programs. In 2001, Mr. Roy coordinated the project for the web-based delivery system for the Maine State Grant Program which has become a model for the successful application of technology in the administration of state-based grant programs

Mr. Roy holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from the University of Maine.

Mr. Roy's current position at FAME is consultant for the administration of the grant and scholarship programs, vendor management of the service entity of the FFEL Program, and advisor to the Directors and CEO at FAME.

**Robert W. Ruble, Executive Director**  
Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation

Dr. Robert Ruble is now in his third year as Executive Director of “TSAC”, the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation. TSAC administers a variety of need-based and merit-based student aid programs, including the lottery-funded HOPE Scholarship. Additionally, TSAC is the student loan guarantor of choice for most Tennesseans.

Prior to joining TSAC, Dr. Ruble was Vice President for Business Affairs at the University of Southern Indiana, Associate Commissioner for Facilities and Financial Affairs at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Associate Director of the Indiana University Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, Director of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Office of Financial Aid, and an engineer with Alcoa and RCA.

Dr. Ruble has Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Engineering from Purdue University, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Illinois State University. As you might expect from a former engineer, he is a bit of a computer geek. He has a Xanga blog (user name = “Quetico”), and a Facebook site (user name = “Bob Ruble”), and you can instant message him (AIM) at his “BobRuble” screen name.

**Charles Treadwell, HES Program Director**  
New York State Higher Education Services Corporation

Mr. Charles “Chas” Treadwell is an HES Program Director with the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC), working in the areas of research and policy analysis, and serving as Senior Policy Advisor to the President of HESC. Prior to working at HESC, Mr. Treadwell worked in the NYS Education Department as a higher education planner. Mr. Treadwell has over 30 years of experience in higher education and student financial aid.

Mr. Treadwell served as President of NASSGAP in 1993-94, and has served as Chair of the NASSGAP Federal Relations Committee for 20 years.