



2013-14 NASSGAP President Activities

Christine Zuzack

Month	Activity
October 2013	
	Assumed the Office of President of NASSGAP during the Business Meeting at the annual conference in Washington, DC.
	Updated and submitted for web posting, the 2013 State Roll Call document. Twenty-five states submitted a report.
	Submitted comments to the USDE on the proposed regulations regarding the FAFSA Completion project and the requirements for this program. It would be beneficial for USDE to permit non-public schools to participate along with providing a participation template for all states to use to enroll school districts in the project.
November 2013	
	Conducted the NASSGAP Executive Committee teleconference meeting on November 21.
	Received a request from Jeff Baker, Director Policy Liaison and Implementation, Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education, to discuss the SAIG and FAFSA Completion Initiative with the NASSGAP Executive Committee. This meeting was conducted on November 21.
December 2013	
	Arrangements are being made to meet with Robert Gomez from the US Department of Education on either December 18 or 20 to discuss the proposed college rating system. Comments are being collected from NASSGAP members for their thoughts on this proposal and how it would affect schools within their states.
	Received a request from Gigi Jones, Director of Research at NASFAA for a report from 2006 outlining the use of Prior-Prior Year data for financial aid applications. The report actually is "owned" by Minnesota and it is their decision to release or not. NASFAA is promoting the use of prior-prior data for FAFSA applications.
	Received a request from Jeff Baker, Policy Director for Federal Student Aid, for additional meeting dates with the NASSGAP Executive Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for December 23 with a second to follow in early January.
	Conducted the monthly teleconference conference call with the NASSGAP Executive Committee on December 19. Discussed federal relations activity and the spring executive committee meeting.
	Prepared commentary on President's Obama's college ratings system in preparation for a meeting with four USDE officials on December 19.
	On December 19, met with four USDE officials in Washington, DC on President Obama's college ratings system to be implemented in the 2015-16 award year. The officials included: Jamie Studley, Robert Gomez, and Spiros Protopsaltis.
January 2014	
	Conducted the monthly NASSGAP Executive Committee teleconference meeting on January 16.
	On January 6, approved the Committee for Education Funding (CEF) membership renewal for NASSGAP.

February 2014	
	Made arrangements and signed a contract with the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Diego for the spring NASSGAP Executive Committee meeting on May 4- 6.
	Conducted the monthly NASSGAP Executive Committee teleconference meeting on February 20.
March 2014	
	Participated in the NASSGAP Conference Committee meeting on March 5. The membership will be solicited for program and speaker suggestions.
	Jeff Baker, Director of Policy Liaison and Implementation for FSA, requested a list of all state grant agency leads in order to send them information about the FAFSA Completion initiative. The new SAIG Agreement for state grant agencies is final and contains the language that permits this release of FAFSA data to Local Education Authorities (LEAs). Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, sent a letter to all state governors promoting this program and Mr. Baker wants to send a follow-up communication to agency heads.
	Notified all state grant agency staff of the communications sent by Jeff Baker, FSA, to all of the CEOs/Presidents of state grant agencies concerning the new FAFSA Completion Initiative.
	Conducted the monthly NASSGAP Executive Committee teleconference meeting on March 20.
April 2014	
	With Executive Committee, approved a “conference fee exchange” with NCHER for Frank Ballman to attend their annual conference in June in Fort Lauderdale, FL and for James Bergeron, NCHER President, to attend the NASSGAP conference in San Diego, CA
	Received an invitation from Brian Melnyk, staffer for the Committee on Education and the Workforce, to discuss Reauthorization of the Title IV Student Aid Programs on May 2.
	Jeff Baker from Federal Student Aid addressed the NASSGAP Executive Committee on April 17. A letter from the Secretary of Education is being sent to all state grant agencies CEOs on other entities that may participate in the FAFSA Completion Initiative.
	Participated in a teleconference on the 2014 NASSGAP Annual Conference on April 22.
	Received a request from a Virginia legislative analyst to discuss “The Cost Efficiency of Higher Education.” A conference call has been scheduled for May 1 with the NASSGAP Executive Committee to discuss initiatives in other states.
	Conducted the monthly NASSGAP Executive Committee teleconference meeting on April 17.
May 2014	
	Signed a contract with the Hilton Garden Inn in Washington DC for the 2015 NASSGAP Annual Conference
	Met with Brian Melnyk, and Emily Slack, professional staffers for the US House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce, to discuss Reauthorization of the Title IV Student Aid Programs on May 2. They were particularly interested in states reactions to using prior-prior year income on the FAFSA, state incentive programs for students who demonstrate higher levels of achievement, and simplification efforts.
	Chaired the NASGAP Executive Committee meeting in San Diego, CA on May 5-6, 2014.
	On May 6, met with hotel representatives from the San Diego Westin Gaslamp District Hotel, the site of the October 2014 NASSGAP Conference, to discuss logistical arrangements for the meeting.
	Chaired a conference call on May 1 with Nia Harrison from a special task force from

	Virginia charged with reviewing the efficiency of state support for higher education.
	Participated in a discussion on May 23 to prepare for the conference call with the GAO on May 28. A list of questions were received for discussion.
	Arranged for a NASSGAP poll on using prior-prior year income on the FAFSA and if this would be an issue for states to use this rather than the most recent tax year to evaluate eligibility for a state grant. The US Department of Education is looking more intently as using prior-prior year income on the FAFSA and most national higher education professional organizations are supportive of this change.
June 2014	
	Participated in a conference call with the federal General Accounting Office (GAO) on a study they are undertaking to examine state higher education policies.
	Invited Jeff Baker to attend the 2014 NASSGAP conference as a speaker.
	Evaluated the online registration system for this year's annual conference.
	Conducted the monthly NASSGAP Executive Committee teleconference meeting on June 19.
	Received an invitation from the FAFSA Design Team to participate in a conference call on July 10 concerning recommendations from The Institute for Access and Success (TICAS).
	With approval of the NASSGAP Executive Committee, three new "Friends of NASSGAP" congratulatory letters sent to Melanie Amrhein, Theresa Antworth, and Vicki Merkel.
July 2014	
	Participated in a conference call with the U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), and The Institute for Access and Success (TICAS) on issues related to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
	Announced the successful candidates in the NASSGAP election of officers for 2014-15: Stephanie Butler – President-Elect, Mark French - Secretary, Todd Brown – Treasurer-Elect, and Rachelle Sharpe – Member at Large.
	Updated NASSGAP contact information for the annual survey with the Education Resources Information Center.
	Conducted the NASSGAP Executive Committee teleconference meeting on July 17.
	Participated in the NASSGAP Conference Committee meeting on July 7.
	Sent two announcements to the membership on the availability of the NASSGAP Conference Scholarship. Ritchie Morrow of Nebraska is serving as chair of the selection committee.
August 2014	
	Signed a contract with GoldBridge partners for work on the webpage that will support the query tool for the NASSGAP Survey.
	Sent correspondence to Senator Harkin on proposals supporting state and federal partnerships for student aid initiatives.
	Declined a meeting with Bob Moran due to a scheduling conflict to discuss a number of policy issues relating to year round Pell, Prior-Prior Year income, financial literacy, and loan counseling. Frank Ballman from NY was able to attend.
	With approval of the NASSGAP Executive Committee, three new "Friends of NASSGAP" congratulatory letters sent to Robert Long, Maureen Laffey Freel, and Cheryl Maplethorpe.
	Provided a report on states' activities and involvement with the FAFSA Completion Initiative to Jeff Baker of Federal Student Aid.
	Conducted the monthly NASSGAP Executive Committee meeting on August 21.
	Responded to an inquiry from David Hawkins, Director of Public Policy and Research for the National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC) on the issue of disclosing the student's school choices on the FAFSA. A number of state

	grant agencies need this information in order to make awards.
September 2014	
	Attended the hearing sponsored by the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance on the President's Postsecondary Institution Ratings System (PIRS). Trinity College in Washington, DC served as the site for the hearing on September 12.
	Conducted the monthly NASSGAP Executive Committee teleconference meeting on September 15.
	On September 17, announced a proposed amendment to the Bylaws with submission of the changes released to the membership within the required 30 days before the annual business meeting in October. Changes are being proposed to the definition of a "Friend of NASSGAP."
	Realigned committee chairs and co-chairs for Membership and Communications and for Federal Relations with Executive Committee approval.
October 2014	
	On October 8, spoke with Kim Cook from the National College Access Network (NCAN) on the FAFSA Completion Initiative and College Goal Sunday. NCAN is interested in bringing together FAFSA completion efforts by various entities.
	Participated in the Conference Committee teleconference call on October 14 to discuss finalization of conference details.
	Conducted the monthly NASSGAP Executive Committee teleconference meeting on October 16.
	Signed contracts for AV equipment for the conference at the Westin and for Monday night dinner at an external restaurant.
	Opened the NASSGAP Annual Conference in San Diego, CA. Moved to Past-President at the end of the annual business meeting with Diane Lindeman of Kansas assuming the presidency for 2014-15.