



# THE INFORMER

*The Quarterly IASFAA Newsletter*



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## **Did You Know? IASFAA's New Institutional Membership is Here!**

As of the 2024-2025 membership year, IASFAA has transitioned to an Institutional Membership model for Iowa colleges and universities. Memberships are now processed by institution or organization, rather than by individual staff members. Renewal applications can only be accessed by your organization's designated Key Contact, who manages membership on behalf of your institution. Associate Members can annually choose between individual or institutional membership options. Instructions are provided to guide you through this process each year. If you have any questions about your membership, feel free to contact Duane Polsdofer, Membership Chair, at [duane.polsdofer@waldorf.edu](mailto:duane.polsdofer@waldorf.edu).

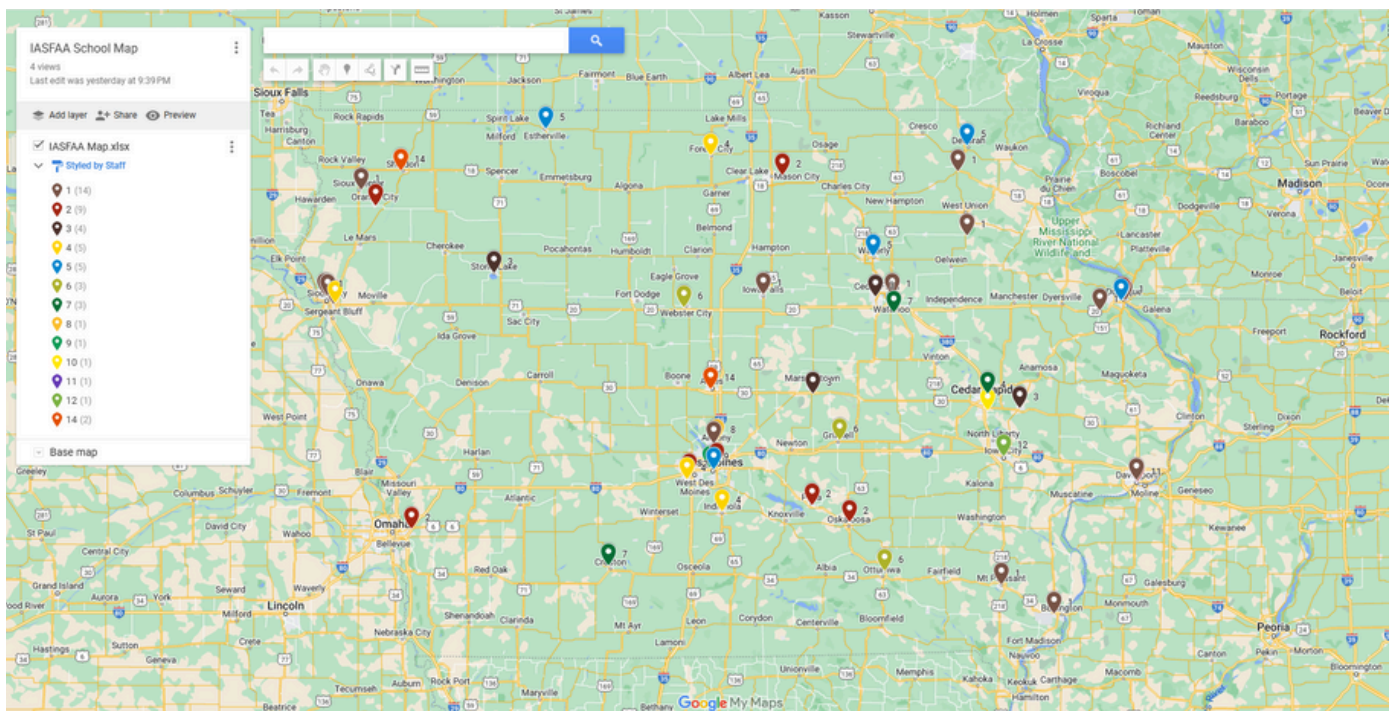
NEW

# IASFAA School Density Map

The Communications Committee is proud to present the new IASFAA Density Map. This map details the density of school population and involvement in IASFAA throughout the state of Iowa.

Pictured below is a snapshot of the density map, accessible through Google Maps. Copy the link below to look access and see the density map:

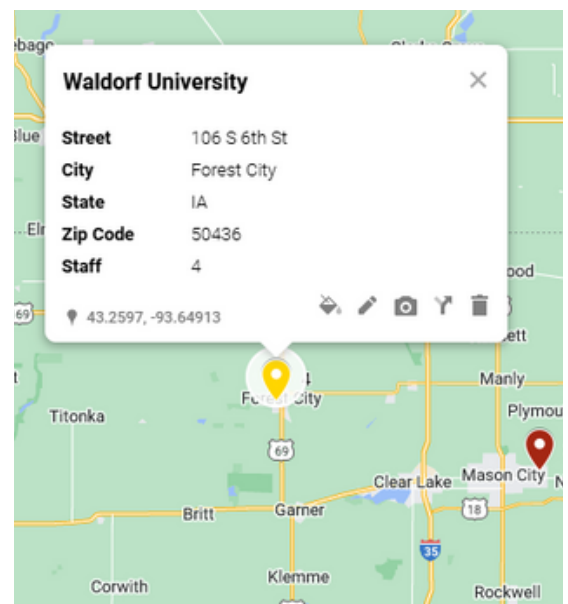
[https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1AjtBsACyjNO1CUzPUBtID2Ek3ws9wn0&usp=sharing\\_](https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1AjtBsACyjNO1CUzPUBtID2Ek3ws9wn0&usp=sharing_)



## How can I find information on the school density map?

You can zoom in and out using the + and - icons in the bottom right corner. Once you hone in on a location, you can hover over the pinpoint on the map. By clicking on the map, you can school specific information including location and staff involvement in IASFAA.

Having issues accessing the school density map? Contact the Communications Committee.



# President's Message

Back in February, I met with Shelly Adams and Chris Ditter at Tristan Lynn's house to go through the magician's box of IASFAA's archives. We sorted through many things and found a lot of gems! Archive Iowa converted many photographs, floppy disks, and VHS tapes to digital files that we will post on the website and use for future slideshows. I picked up the finished products recently and I am excited to share them with everyone at the spring conference.



IASFAA's Executive Council has been busy working on executing our new strategic plan. Keep your eyes out for IASFAA swag coming in the first quarter of 2025 ;)



We are also offering another FAAC credential workshop this spring. Congratulations to Sara Sroka and Brenda Busynski on earning their FAAC credential after attending our first event this fall. We also have FREE in-person training for ALL the NASFAA credentials coming this spring. Make sure to sign up or reach out if you would like specific credentials or locations. We are also working on offering a one-day in-person training for staff new to financial aid.

I would also like to announce that our membership has grown from around 190 in November 2023 to over 300 in November 2024. The institutional membership pricing is working!

Finally, the data collection task force will begin meeting in January.

Respectfully,  
Sarah Freestone

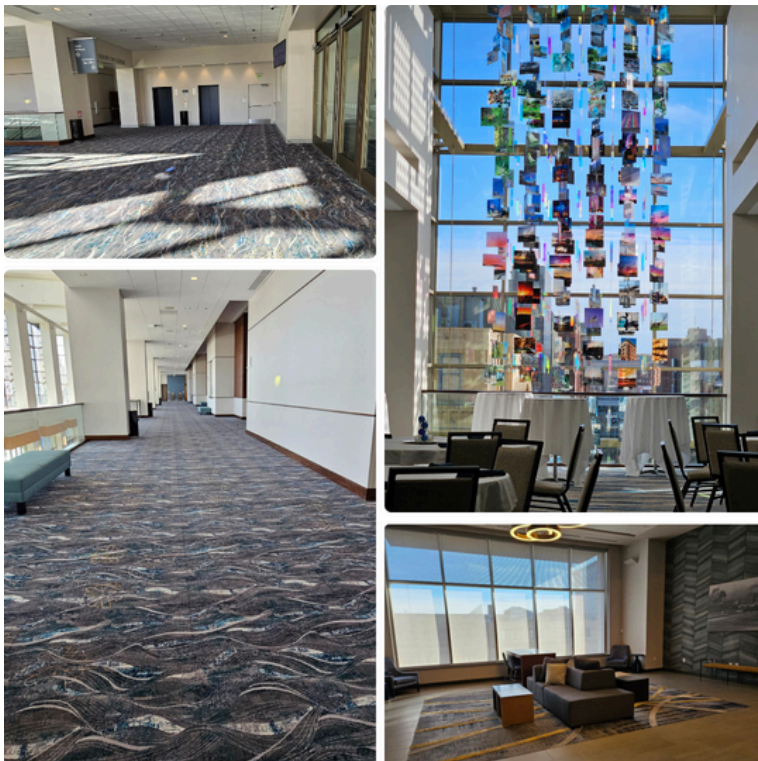
# 2025 Spring IASFAA Conference

The IASFAA Conference Program Committee recently gathered in person at the DoubleTree Hotel in Cedar Rapids to kick off planning for the Spring 2025 Conference. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who submitted session ideas—your contributions are invaluable! During the meeting, the committee reviewed your submissions and brainstormed additional sessions to ensure the conference offers a rich and well-rounded experience.

We're excited to provide content tailored for professionals across all sectors of higher education—whether you're from a public/regent institution, private college, community college, or even graduate school! From those new to the field to experienced directors, this conference will have something for everyone.

This year, we're also excited to announce a one-day Business Officer Track, similar to what we offered during the Fall 2021 Conference. Be sure to share this with your colleagues in the business office at your institution—they won't want to miss this opportunity!

We're thrilled to bring this event to life and look forward to seeing you in Cedar Rapids this spring. Stay tuned for more updates as we finalize the details!



# Stay Connected with the IASFAA Listserv!

Are you taking advantage of the IASFAA Listserv? This valuable tool is designed for IASFAA members to quickly and efficiently share relevant information with fellow members.

## [What is the IASFAA Listserv?](#)

The IASFAA Listserv is an email-based platform that allows members to easily disseminate and receive updates, announcements, and other important information related to the financial aid profession and our association.

## How to Subscribe or Post a Message

It's simple!

1. Click on IASFAA Listserv.
2. Navigate to My Features > E-Lists to subscribe or post a message.

Join the conversation and stay in the loop with timely updates from your IASFAA community. Don't miss out—sign up today!

## IASFAA's Newest FAAC's!

**Brenda Buzynski**, University of Iowa

**Sara Sroka**, University of Dubuque

**Jennifer Sassman**, Wartburg College

**Rachel Moser**, Luther College



Congratulations to you all on this wonderful accomplishment of becoming a Certified Financial Aid Administrator!

# Gary Adams Meritorious Service Award

In October, IASFAA Executive Council decided to rename the Meritorious Service Award to the Gary Adams Meritorious Service Award. This change honors Gary Adams' nearly 20 years of exceptional service to IASFAA and his significant contributions to the financial aid profession. Gary began his journey in the financial aid profession in 1996 and joined IASFAA in 2004. Over the years, he served IASFAA in numerous capacities, demonstrating unwavering dedication and leadership. Gary was named an honorary, lifetime member of IASFAA in recognition of his outstanding service.

## A Message from Shelly Adams

Before Gary passed, we were deeply grateful for the compassion we received from our IASFAA family in the form of visits, cards, flowers, gifts, messages, food donations and basically the love and support so many of you enveloped us in. It's a blessing to be a part of such a caring and loving organization. I thank those who attended Gary's celebration of life on November 23rd. Gary would have loved hearing the conversations and laughter that took place that day, just as he loved hearing it at the April celebration many of you attended. Such a brilliant concept to honor someone in that way before their earthly journey is over. He felt undeserving of the honor, as well as for the renaming of the Meritorious Service Award in his honor. I couldn't convince him otherwise. Most of you were well-aware of his humility!

The video of his Celebration of Life service is available at this link for those who wish to view it.

[https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_https://youtu.be/-Fg6d7GreBc?si=FNK785WxwYDKBD0L\\_!!M2D\\_dUfSiN4E!K2-AFI3Fp3YLDf5iTvizoH4Yec1fvR5DuSyJe1uS8OeZoYdXBV5FNCWzZcgeSDNA1ALu3BOHMEknKUJBxnYDdd5xZmGEow\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://youtu.be/-Fg6d7GreBc?si=FNK785WxwYDKBD0L_!!M2D_dUfSiN4E!K2-AFI3Fp3YLDf5iTvizoH4Yec1fvR5DuSyJe1uS8OeZoYdXBV5FNCWzZcgeSDNA1ALu3BOHMEknKUJBxnYDdd5xZmGEow$)

I wish all of you a warm and blessed holiday season this winter. It gives me solace knowing that many of you keep Gary alive in your hearts as you gather with family and friends. I thank you for that.

With a grateful heart,  
Shelly Adams

# What's new with the IASFAA crew?

- The University of Iowa has hired a new financial aid advisor, **Jordan Nichting!** He comes to us with experience he gained at UNI and has made a great addition to our team. Welcome to IASFAA, Jordan!

## Member Voices

Dawn Fleming, Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Northeast Iowa Community College, was interviewed by Senator Chuck Grassley for a Veteran History Project. Dawn's interview was recorded and is available in the digital files of the Library of Congress. Dawn's story will soon be included in a published book, which she will make sure to share with the IASFAA crew! Pictured is Dawn at her meeting with Senator Grassley in Des Moines.



Staff members from the University of Iowa traveled to Ames to meet with staff from Iowa State University to see their workplace, discuss school policies, procedures, and office structures. Pictured are staff members from both schools in front of the clock tower after lunch, taken by Chad Olson.

Jess Graham, Associate Director at the University of Iowa, won the 2024 Outstanding New Professional Award at MASFAA in October. Jess also presented at the conference about Onboarding and Training New Employees. Congratulations, Jess, on your award!





# The Twelve Days of IASFAA

On the **first** day of IASFAA, the mailman brought to me: a notice of a program review.

On the **second** day of IASFAA, the mailman brought to me: two rejected ICAC discs and a notice of a program review.

On the **third** day of IASFAA, the mailman brought to me: three complaints from the inspector general, two rejected ICAC discs and a notice of a program review.

On the **fourth** day of IASFAA, the mailman brought to me: four thousand 1040's, three complaints from the inspector general, two rejected ICAC discs and a notice of a program review.

On the **fifth** day of IASFAA, the mailman brought to me: five Pilot Programs, four thousand 1040's, three complaints from the inspector general, two rejected ICAC discs and a notice of a program review.

On the **sixth** day of IASFAA, the mailman brought to me: six hundred loan checks, five Pilot Programs, four thousand 1040's, three complaints from the inspector general, two rejected ICAC discs and a notice of a program review.

On the **seventh** day of IASFAA, the mailman brought to me: seven hundred signed award letters, six hundred loan checks, five Pilot Programs, four thousand 1040's, three complaints from the inspector general, two rejected ICAC discs and a notice of a program review.

On the **eighth** day of IASFAA, the mailman brought to me: an \$80 spring ITG cut, seven hundred signed award letters, six hundred loan checks, five Pilot Programs, four thousand 1040's, three complaints from the inspector general, two rejected ICAC discs and a notice of a program review.

On the **ninth** day of IASFAA, the mailman brought to me: 19 audit exceptions, an \$80 spring ITG cut, seven hundred signed award letters, six hundred loan checks, five Pilot Programs, four thousand 1040's, three complaints from the inspector general, two rejected ICAC discs and a notice of a program review.

On the **tenth** day of IASFAA, the mailman brought to me: 10,000 outside scholarship checks, 19 audit exceptions, an \$80 spring ITG cut, seven hundred signed award letters, six hundred loan checks, five Pilot Programs, four thousand 1040's, three complaints from the inspector general, two rejected ICAC discs and a notice of a program review.

On the **eleventh** day of IASFAA, the mailman brought to me: eleventh version of the Pell linear reduction schedule, 10,000 outside scholarship checks, 19 audit exceptions, an \$80 spring ITG cut, seven hundred signed award letters, six hundred loan checks, five Pilot Programs, four thousand 1040's, three complaints from the inspector general, two rejected ICAC discs and a notice of a program review.

On the **twelfth** day of IASFAA, the mailman brought to me: numerous technical amendments to reauthorization, eleventh version of the Pell linear reduction schedule, 10,000 outside scholarship checks, 19 audit exceptions, an \$80 spring ITG cut, seven hundred signed award letters, six hundred loan checks, five Pilot Programs, four thousand 1040's, three complaints from the inspector general, two rejected ICAC discs and a notice of a program review.



# The Original Twelve Days of IASFAA!

From the IASFAA Archives

## TWELVE DAYS OF IASFAA

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3. On the third day of IASFAA, the mailman brought to me, three complaints from the inspector general, two rejected ICAC discs, and a notice of a program review.
4. On the fourth day of IASFAA, the mailman brought to me, four thousand 1040's, three complaints from the inspector general, two rejected ICAC discs, and a notice of a program review.
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7. On the seventh day of IASFAA, the mailman brought to me, seven hundred signed award letters, six hundred loan checks, five Pilot Programs, four thousand 1040's, three complaints from the inspector general, two rejected ICAC discs, and a notice of a program review.
8. On the eighth day of IASFAA, the mailman brought to me, an \$80 spring ITG cut, seven hundred signed award letters, six hundred loan checks, five Pilot Programs, four thousand 1040's, three complaints from the inspector general, two rejected ICAC discs, and a notice of a program review.
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