

*Climbing Higher Together!*

NCASFAA Intermediate  
Aid Workshop  
Spring 2025





Hello and Welcome to NCASFAA Spring Conference and this year's Intermediate Aid Workshop. Today, we gather as leaders, innovators, and advocates in the field of financial aid—each of us committed to a shared mission: making higher education accessible and affordable for all students.

In a time when the landscape of financial aid is rapidly evolving – whether through policy changes, technological advancements, or increasing student needs—our roles have never been more critical. We are not just administrators of aid; we are architects of opportunity, ensuring that finances are not a barrier to education but a bridge to success.

This workshop is a chance for us to engage in meaningful discussions, share best practices, and collaborate on solutions that will shape the future of student support. Over the course of Sunday and Monday, we'll hear from leaders, engage in strategic conversations and gain insights that will empower us to better serve our institutions and, most importantly, our students.

Thank you for being here, for the work you do, and for your dedication to student success. Let's make this workshop a productive and inspiring experience.

**Welcome and let's get started!!**

Sincerely,



**Lee Bray**  
**2024-25 NCASFAA President**



**Andrea Blount**  
**2024-25 NCASFAA Intermediate Aid Chair**

**NCASFAA Spring 2025 Intermediate Aid Workshop**  
**AGENDA**  
*with Session Moderators*

<b>Sunday, April 6, 2025</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Individual(s)</b>
12:30pm – 1:00pm	Welcome / Ice Breaker	Andrea Blount, Intermediate Aid Chair, Wake Technical Community College
1:00pm – 1:05pm	Introduction of Dana Kelly	Preston Dodson
1:05 pm – 2:05pm	Satisfactory Academic Progress	Dana Kelly, NASFAA
2:05pm – 2:10pm	Introduction of Bruce Blackmon	Kathleen Roebuck
2:10pm – 3:10pm	Where ideas flourish, Support is key	Bruce Blackmon, UNC-Charlotte
3:10pm – 3:25pm	Break	
3:25pm – 3:30pm	Introduction of Dana Kelly	Casey Wallen
3:30pm – 4:30pm	Verification	Dana Kelly, NASFAA
4:30pm – 5:00pm	Step up, stand out, get involved	NCASFAA Board Members
5:00 PM	Closing/Dinner on Your Own	Andrea Blount, Intermediate Aid Chair, Wake Technical Community College
<b>Monday, April 7, 2025</b>		
7:30am – 8:30am	Breakfast	
9:00am – 9:30am	Recap Discussion and Icebreaker	Andrea Blount, Intermediate Aid Chair, Wake Technical Community College & Sherlock McDougald, Edgecombe Community College
9:30am – 9:35am	Introduction of Leigh Hussey	Van Denton
9:35am – 10:35am	Professional Judgement	Leigh Hussey, University of West Georgia
10:35am – 10:40am	Introduction of Andrea Blount	Kevin McNamar
10:40am – 11:45am	Let's use our collective expertise too...	Andrea Blount, Intermediate Aid Chair, Wake Technical Community College
11:45AM	Closing	

## Intermediate Aid Workshop Speakers

NCASF AA extends its deepest gratitude to our esteemed presenters and speakers. Their insights, expertise, and passion have made a lasting impact, inspiring and enlightening us all. Their time and effort in sharing valuable knowledge are truly appreciated, and we are grateful for your willingness to share that knowledge. Your dedication to your craft has made this event a meaningful and enriching experience for all in attendance.

### **Bruce Blackmon**



Director of Financial aid at UNC-Charlotte and has been in the financial aid profession for over 29 years. Bruce has helped thousands of students in his career and enjoys the challenge of the ever-changing world of federal regulation. He earned his undergraduate degree from Coker College and a graduate degree from UNC Pembroke. Bruce is originally from Hartsville, South Carolina, and is always on the road between Laurinburg, NC, and Charlotte. His wife is a Nurse Practitioner with the Carolinas Hospital System.



### **Dana Kelly**

Dana Kelly serves as the Vice President of Professional Development and Institutional Compliance at the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). In this role, she leads a diverse portfolio that includes training, regulatory assistance, certification, credentialing, and corporate partnerships. Dana also oversees several of NASFAA's signature events, including the annual Leadership & Legislative Conference & Expo, the National Conference, and the Executive Leadership Collective.

With more than two decades of experience in higher education, Dana brings a deep wealth of knowledge shaped by her work in campus financial aid offices, loan servicing, and national training initiatives. Her frontline experience uniquely positions her to understand the financial aid community's evolving needs and deliver impactful, relevant professional development.

As a member of NASFAA's executive leadership team, Dana plays a key role in shaping and executing the association's strategic vision in partnership with the Board of Directors.

Dana holds a Bachelor of Science in Justice and Policy Studies from Guilford College, a Master's in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix, and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

## **Leigh Hussey**



Leigh Ann Hussey is the Director of Financial Aid at the University of West Georgia and is currently serving as the SASFAA President. A native of Mississippi, Leigh Ann held positions at both Itawamba Community College and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College before venturing to Georgia for a total of 16 years of experience in the financial aid profession. In her free time, Leigh Ann enjoys live music, college sporting events, and spoiling her pets - Truvy Willadene the dog and Carl Dean the cat.