



Professional Development Institute



Supporting Student Financial Aid Planning

Friday, September 22nd

Webster University, East Academic Building Rooms 253-262

AGENDA

- 8:00 AM Coffee, light breakfast and conversation
- 8:30 **Welcome/Introductions**
Host: **James Myers**, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Director of Financial Aid, Webster University
- 9:00-9:45 **Financial Aid Context: Changes to Policy and Practice that Impact Students**
The workshop will start with context – an overview of where things stand and what we can expect. How does federal and state policy impact students, including policies related to undocumented students and affirmative action? What have we learned about early FAFSA from the year one experience that will improve our work with students this year? What changes are happening or are anticipated at the federal level, including the availability of the IRS data retrieval tool?
- Presenters:
- **Teresa Steinkamp**, Advising Director, The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis
 - **Karissa Anderson**, Manager of Advocacy, The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis and St. Louis Graduates
- 9:45 - 10:15 **Student Perspectives: What I Wish I Had Known**
A panel of students will share what advice they found most helpful and what they wish counselors had shared with them.
- Moderator: **Allison Williams**, Co-chair, St. Louis Graduates and Senior Vice President-Programs, Wyman
- Panelists:
- **Amenta Christian-Robertson**, biology and biochemistry student, St. Louis Community College-Forest Park
 - **Mayra Serna**, engineering student, University of Missouri-Columbia
 - **Allison Thompson**, communications student, University of Missouri-Columbia
- 10:15-10:30 BREAK
- 10:30 – 11:30 **Comparing Financial Aid Awards: Higher Education Institutional Perspective**
Financial aid advisors from several higher education institutions will discuss how they would award a sample student with three different EFC scenarios and discuss ways the

hypothetical student could strengthen his/her opportunities for institutional aid. Panelists will also share sample financial aid award letters.

Moderator: **Alan Byrd, Jr.**, Vice Provost of Enrollment Management, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Panelists:

- **Ashley Byington**, Senior Counselor, Harris-Stowe State University
- **Kayla Klein**, Financial Aid Advisor, University of Missouri-Columbia
- **Samantha Matchefts**, Associate Director of Financial Aid, University of Missouri – St. Louis
- **James Myers**, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Director of Financial Aid, Webster University
- **Kristin Thomas**, Financial Aid Advisor, St. Louis Community College-Forest Park

11:30 – 12:00 **Filling the Gaps: What Students Need to Know about Loans and Scholarships**

Filling financial aid gaps today almost always requires a combination of scholarships and loans. How can counselors help students manage debt load by accessing the scholarships and loans that are available? What scholarships are available? How can students connect to local scholarships through Scholarship Central? What are the different kinds of loans? How can students access interest-free loans?

Presenters:

- **Melissa Findley**, Manager, Foundation and Outreach Strategies, Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation, and Early Awareness Committee Co-Chair, MASFAP
- **Ellen Vietor**, Scholarship Central Manager, St. Louis Graduates

12-12:45 **Lunch and Table Topic Discussions**

Participants will select a table topic, pick up lunch and join a small group discussion.

Topics:

- Graduating on time – supporting students to take 15 credits, not 12
- Transfers – guiding students through questions to make a successful transfer
- Independent vs. Dependent - Working with students who are independent, homeless, or have challenging circumstances
- Supporting students with guardianship issues – foster care, divorced parents, etc.

12:45 – 1:00 **Closing Remarks, Evaluations and Adjournment**

James Myers, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Director of Financial Aid, Webster University

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For information on upcoming workshops, visit www.stlouisgraduates.org