



# MASFAP Monitor

January 2020 Volume 2020, Issue 1



## Inside this issue:

Dena's Dish and Sign Up to Volunteer on a Committee	1-2
Tidbits and Happenings	3-4
Twitter Announcement	5
Scholarships	6
In Memory of Shagonda Love	7
Committee Updates	8
MASFAP on the Move	9
School Spotlight	10
Scholarship Central	11-12
Favorite Quotes	13
MDHEWD Updates	14
How to Post on the Listserv	15
Executive Board	16

## Dena's Dish

**Dena Norris, MASFAP President  
Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Financial  
Services, Metropolitan Community College**



Happy New Year!!! I hope you enjoyed your winter break and you were able to get some rest as well as spend some quality time with family and friends. It's so hard to believe it's the year 2020, and the hustle of the semester is starting again for all of us.

I am so excited for what the year will bring, and I look forward to and am honored to serve as your president. For those who do not know me, I want to introduce myself. I have worked at Metropolitan Community College for 23½ years and have worked in financial aid since 2004. I am currently serving as the Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Financial Services where I oversee and have the pleasure of working with a great team, including financial aid, bursar/business office, delinquent account/collections and system

support staff. I remember attending my first MASFAP conference and thought, some of these folks are a bit crazy. I got involved, and looking back I see how much I have gained both personally and professionally. On a personal note, I am the proud mother of two children, Rocco (almost 6 years old) and Catalina (who just turned 10). They are a joy and blessing in my life.

My involvement in MASFAP has led to an amazing network of friends and colleagues, and I look forward to expanding that network in 2020. MASFAP has done a lot of excellent work over the years, and we will continue to provide services, resources and opportunities for Missouri students and

institutions throughout the state. An area I feel we as an association need to focus on in 2020 is diversity and inclusion. I have received approval from the board to form an ad-hoc committee on diversity and inclusion. I have charged the committee with establishing a diversity and inclusion statement, incorporate purposeful opportunities for professional development and strive for our association to be deliberant with our diversity and inclusion efforts in the work, business and activities we pursue as an association.

The 2020 Executive Board will meet at the end of January for our first board meeting to plan for the year, but work is already happening such as the planning of professional development opportunities, early awareness activities, leadership development, legislative activities, and our annual conference. Please be on the lookout for announcements of upcoming events and I will update you on the board's work in the next newsletter.

**We have a lot to do in 2020 and we need your help.** MASFAP committees need your help with a variety of planning and association business, both big and small. I encourage you to get involved and volunteer for a committee. Not all committees require you to be out of the office or commit a lot of time, so there's an opportunity for everyone. Your involvement will be rewarding—I promise you will create lifetime friendships and gain so much both personally and professionally. If you have questions about a committee or want more information about how you can get involved, please reach out to me or any of the committee chairs. We cannot do this without our member volunteers! Please follow these directions to volunteer!!!



The Executive Board is here to represent you, the MASFAP membership. If you have thoughts, concerns, ideas or suggestions please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any board member.

I hope 2020 is going great!

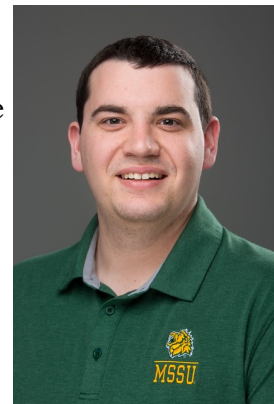
## It's Time to Volunteer for a MASFAP Committee!

Here are the easy steps to volunteer:

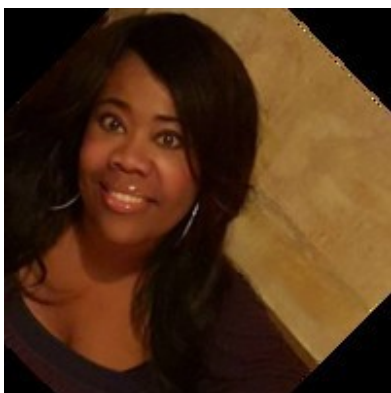
1. Go to [www.MASFAP.org](http://www.MASFAP.org)
2. Log into your MASFAP profile
3. Select "Volunteer" under the "Financial Aid Administrators" tab
4. Verify that your information is correct
5. Select up to three committees to volunteer for. If you would like to add more, simply submit another volunteer form
6. Committee chairs will contact you

**Thank you for being involved!**

- Kala Smith is the new Director of Financial Aid at Lincoln University. She started over the summer.
- Keely Haynes, University of Missouri-Columbia, has accepted a position as Associate Director of Financial Aid and Compliance at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA.
- Nick Prewett accepted the position of Director of Financial Aid at Stony Brook University.
- Missouri Southern State University recently hired Becca Sumler as Student Employment Coordinator. Becca just recently graduated with her Bachelor's from MSSU and worked there previously as a student worker. They are so happy to have her join full-time!
- Tyler Meyer, Missouri Southern State University, recently moved from Student Employment to Financial Aid Counselor. (Pictured right)
- Julie Finn has submitted that SunTrust Bank and BB&T have completed their merger and have formed a new bank called Truist. You will continue to see SunTrust until the transition to Truist is complete. You can learn more at [Truist.com](https://www.truist.com).
- Joni Newland, Associate Director of Financial Aid, A.T. Still University, is retiring from the university on January 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Deandra Gallagher, Loan Coordinator at Lindenwood University, and her husband welcomed Phoenix Wilder Michael into their family on December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- After 39 years in the financial aid industry, Marilyn Baker, Director of Financial Aid at Missouri Western State University, has officially announced she will retire on February 28, 2020!
- Lorrie Baird, East Central College, became a first-time grandma to little Ali Eugene Forstmann on October 16, 2019 – 6 # 14 oz. (Pictured below)



- Heather Kleekamp recently accepted the position of Associate Director of Financial Aid at East Central College.



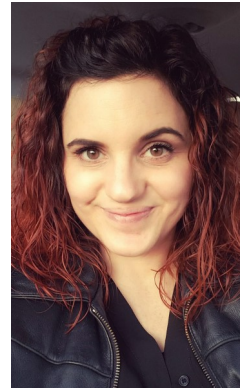
- Barb Kuelker recently accepted the position of Financial Aid Advisor (Scholarships and A+) at East Central College.
- Shayla Johnson, Saint Louis University, is now the Assistant Director of Counseling and Outreach. (Pictured left)
- Truman State University announced that Mary Jane Kiefer is retiring on 1/31/2020 and that they have two new people in the office – Dana Rigby, Financial Aid Counselor, and Tracy Mathews, Office Assistant.

# MASFAP Happenings and Tidbits, *Cont.*



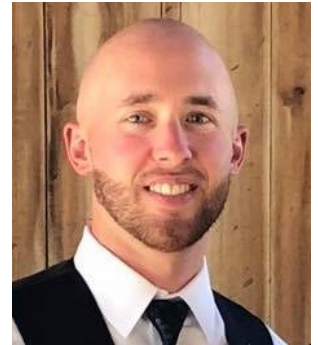
- Keri Gilbert started as the Senior Associate Director of the Missouri College Access Network (MOCAN) in early January. She is excited to serve Missouri students and help them with post-secondary access! (Pictured left)

- Ashlea Buntin, William Jewell College, was promoted to Director of Financial Aid. (Pictured right)



- Daniel Holt was promoted to Associate Vice President for Institutional Strategy at William Jewell College. (Pictured left)

- Ethan Bragg, William Jewell College, was promoted to Financial Aid Coordinator. (Pictured right)



- Kara Oberkrom joined the Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development in December to coordinate their continued efforts to increase FAFSA filing and completion.

Before starting as the Department's FAFSA outreach coordinator, Kara worked in campus housing at the University of Missouri. During her time there, Kara observed firsthand the impact financial needs have on many college students.

Kara has a master's degree in public affairs and when she's not focused on financial aid, she's busy planning her upcoming wedding in November. Contact

Kara at [kara.oberkrom.dhewd.mo.gov](mailto:kara.oberkrom.dhewd.mo.gov) or 573-522-6782. (Pictured left)



- Karen Misjak is retiring! After working in our industry many years in Missouri, Karen moved to Iowa as the Executive Director of the Iowa College Student Aid Commission, and her retirement party will be in Iowa Friday, January 24 at the Iowa State Capitol; Room 116; 1007 E Grand Ave, Des Moines. Her email address is [Karen.misjak@iowa.gov](mailto:Karen.misjak@iowa.gov) if you would like to send her a note.

Guess what?

MASFAP is now on **Twitter**



Follow us... **@MoASFAP**

**Follow | Share | Post | Network | Learn**



## Four \$20,000 Scholarships for Grad School to be Awarded

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*Submitted By Laura Steinbeck, Director of Business Development*

The application window is officially open for current and prospective graduate and professional school students to apply for Sallie Mae's® \$20,000 Bridging the Dream Scholarship for Graduate Students. The company will award four \$20,000 scholarships to students who creatively describe their unique journey to graduate school, who or what influenced them to pursue an advanced degree, and what they hope to accomplish after graduate school. Students can apply at [SallieMae.com/BridgingTheDreamGrad](https://SallieMae.com/BridgingTheDreamGrad) through Feb. 14, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. EST.

Graduate school is becoming the new norm according to “[How America Pays for Graduate School](#),” a national study by Sallie Mae and Ipsos. Nearly two thirds (64 percent) of grad students believe an advanced degree is the new minimum standard level of education for any professional occupation, and nearly all (95 percent) say an advanced degree is necessary to enter, advance, accelerate, or remain competitive in their chosen career. Scholarships and grants, however, are far less available for graduate students than for undergrads, covering just 15 percent of grad school costs.

“The Bridging the Dream Scholarship for Graduate Students is all about helping our next generation of doctors, teachers, nurses, lawyers, and business leaders reach their potential and create the lives they’ve imagined for themselves and others,” said John Volpini, vice president, Sallie Mae. “Since the start of this program, we’ve met incredible students and young professionals who are well on their way to building prosperous futures, not just for themselves, but for their communities.”

Felipe Hernandez, a 2019 Bridging the Dream Scholarship for Graduate Students recipient, is completing his law degree at Harvard University and aspires to assist and advocate for low-income communities and minorities.

“As a first-generation student, and a son of immigrants, I never thought college, let alone graduate school, was a possibility,” said Hernandez. “Sallie Mae’s Bridging the Dream Scholarship is helping me continue my education, which gives me the tools, knowledge, and experience to help not only my family, but also those who are struggling to overcome barriers to success.”

In addition to the Bridging the Dream Scholarship for Graduate Students, Sallie Mae offers a free, online [Graduate School Scholarship Search](#) tool, which offers access to 950,000 graduate school scholarships worth more than \$1 billion. Available scholarships and fellowships run the gamut of graduate school disciplines, including business, law, medical, healthcare and nursing, engineering, and education, and range from a few thousand to tens of thousands of dollars.

For more information about the Bridging the Dream Scholarship for Graduate Students, see the [official rules](#). No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Sallie Mae expects to announce the winners this spring. Students can apply through Feb. 14, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. EST.

# In Memory of Shagonda Love



*Shagonda  
Love*



MASFAP member Shagonda Love passed away December 5, 2019. Shagonda was a Financial Aid Counselor at Lincoln University, and attended the MASFAP annual conference in November. The visitation and funeral were held in December in St. Louis.

Kala Smith, Financial Aid Director at Lincoln University, said the Financial Aid Office at Lincoln wanted to send a special thanks to everyone at MASFAP who reached out to them during Shagonda's untimely passing.

# MASFAP Committee Updates



## ***Kayla Klein—Early Awareness***

Early Awareness is gearing up for another year packed full of events. Helping with financial aid nights, talking about FAFSA completion, helping at FAFSA Frenzy events, and educating High School Counselors. If

these are all things that you love to do then we want you to join the Early Awareness Committee. We will have 2-3 conference calls throughout the year, opportunities to present, as well as work with families and educators across the state. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [KleinKW@missouri.edu](mailto:KleinKW@missouri.edu).



## ***Stephanie Broyles—Newcomer***

I am honored to chair the 2020 Newcomers Committee. It has only been about a year and half ago that I was a newcomer myself. MASFAP members welcomed me and made me, as a new member, feel that I was as much a part of the

organization as members who have been around and contributing for years. I am proud to get to continue with the tradition of making newcomers feel welcome and I invite any member, old or new, who would like to help welcome newcomers to join the committee. The committee requires minimal time commitment and most of the work will be centered around the 2020 fall conference. I look forward to working with a committee full of MASFAP members interested in helping our newbies feel like they are truly a part of our MASFAP family!



## ***Melissa Findley—Communications***

I hope you enjoy the quarterly newsletters! I am excited to announce that we have started MASFAP's first-ever Twitter account—please go follow us @MoASFAP! And if you ever have announcements or info for Twitter please pass it along to me at

[Melissa.Findley@moslf.org](mailto:Melissa.Findley@moslf.org).



## ***Stephan Garman—Technology***

The Technology Committee will publish a How-To in each newsletter to better assist members with navigating their membership profile. However, our biggest focus in 2020 will be exploring webcast capabilities during professional development events.



## ***Laurel Miller—Program***

Definitely need volunteers for the Program Committee.....come one, come all! Hoping to make this year's program a "VISION" for 2020. Hoping to have our first group meeting in February!



## MASFAP On The Move



Pictures from FSA in Reno—MASFAP members gathered for dinner one evening

### Monitor Submission Policy

Articles may be submitted by any person, company or organization for consideration by the MASFAP Monitor staff and are subject to approval prior to publishing in the newsletter. In general, submissions are made by members of the organization. The author's name should be included in the submission. The editor reserves the right to reject or edit the content of any article or information submitted.

Articles will be edited for accuracy, quality and appropriate length. Submissions may be limited to one article per Monitor, per person, company, or organization, depending on space.

Articles are intended to be informational and for the benefit of MASFAP members, not for company promotion or advertising.

If the author is unavailable or a resolution can't be reached, the editor will refer it to the committee chairperson and President for a decision about publication.

The MASFAP Monitor is brought to you by the Communications Committee. **Submissions for the next MASFAP Monitor are due April 13, 2020.**

# School Spotlight: Stephens College

*By Alex Miller, Stephens College*

Just before the holidays, the Stephens financial aid team and other offices volunteered at the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri. Two or three times a year the Stephens Staff Advisory Council sets up a couple of days for the Stephens community to give back to our local food bank. I am so thankful for the opportunity and the organization I work for to see the benefit of allowing their staff to take time out of the office and give back. My staff and I strive each day to make a difference on our campus, however this opportunity has taken the 'make a difference' statement to the next level. I think it is very important for the community to see Stephens College representatives out and making a difference outside of our institution.

On this particular visit, the group pictured packaged over 1,000 pounds of dry cereal in two hours. On another shift, they packaged chicken nuggets and frozen pizzas. These packages will be delivered to over 140 food pantries for those in need. That is huge and knowing we made a difference just warms my heart a little more! I encourage you and your team to seek out opportunities around the state to give back.



Pictured: Donna Baldwin (Admissions), Suzanne Evans (Financial Aid), Sally Bohlinger (Admissions), Alex Miller, Katie Barthel (Admissions), Erin Hanson (CCPD), Ellen Morris (CCPD), and Chelsee Pipes (Admissions)



# Scholarship Central: A Statewide Resource



*By Melissa Findley, Executive Director of the Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation*

Scholarship Central has grown to a statewide resource for students to find scholarships available throughout our region. For the 2018-2019 school year, Scholarship Central had a total of 130 scholarships and interest-free loan options available for students to apply for, and 2,065 total awards were made from the system totaling \$8.7 million dollars. Additionally, 1,756 students were awarded with 3,590 students submitting an opportunity application. The vision for Scholarship Central is to have a CENTRAL place for all students in the state of Missouri to visit when they are searching for regional scholarships. The system is free to students and private scholarship providers.

## **Student Benefits of Scholarship Central:**

- Increase awareness of, and access to scholarships
- Streamline application process; only need to enter demographic data one time to apply for multiple opportunities
- Simplify reference with a common, confidential questionnaire that reference providers complete online
- Students who come to Scholarship Central to apply for a specific scholarship will find other opportunities they may not have known about
- Everything is online; students can upload their transcript, request references and submit their application completely online

Several years ago the Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation created a new scholarship, and we wanted to use a common platform that other providers use as well. This is when I came across Scholarship Central. Scholarship Central was started by the St. Louis Community Foundation and the Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis to increase the accessibility of scholarships to students, in particular low income, first generation and underrepresented students. The platform has grown over the years and we are collaboratively working with other groups across the state to continue this growth and meet the needs of Missouri students.

## **Statewide Opportunities Now Open on Scholarship Central:**

- [American Association of Blacks in Energy \(AABE\)](#)
- [Andrew Vidal Memorial Scholarship](#)
- [Ava's Grace](#)
- [Braxton Rethwisch](#)
- [Journey to College Book Scholarship](#)
- [Graybar Construction Trades Scholarship](#)
- [RootEd Undergraduate Scholarship](#)
- [RootEd Community College Transfer Scholarship](#)
- [Friends of Saint Louis Municipal School of Nursing](#)
- [SumnerOne Scholarship](#)
- [Purdy Emerging Leaders Scholarship](#)
- [Finish Line Degree Completion Grant](#)
- [Armstrong Engineering Scholarship](#)

# Scholarship Central, *Cont.*

## Statewide Opportunities that Will Open this Scholarship Cycle:

[Women Legislators of Missouri](#)

[OCA](#)

[Venezuelan Association in Missouri](#)

[Bolivian Society](#)

[Access Extra](#)

[MASFAP Who's Making a Difference](#) (already closed)

More and more opportunities are always being added!

Additionally, please refer any scholarship providers to us to be included on the common application, or the external links. This resource can increase their applicant pool! Providers can contact me at [Melissa.findley@moslf.org](mailto:Melissa.findley@moslf.org) or Kaitlyn Venta, Scholarship Central Manager, at [kventa@myscholarshipcentral.org](mailto:kventa@myscholarshipcentral.org).

## Scholarship Provider Benefits of Scholarship Central:

- The provider owns the process so they choose their questions, review applications, select recipients and disburse funds
- Review committee members all have access to conduct online reviews
- All reviewer scores are averaged and presented in a spreadsheet format
- Eliminates paper from the review process; reviewers can view all components of the application – transcript, financial aid documents, references and essays all within the system
- The system sends out automatic reminders to students when they qualify for a scholarship, and when a scholarship they have started applying to is going to end

**Register for  
Professional  
Development  
events at:  
[www.masfap.org](http://www.masfap.org)**

**The MASFAP  
BLOG is LIVE at:  
[www.masfap.org/  
blog-home](http://www.masfap.org/blog-home)**

Your procrastination is not our emergency.

**Laurel Miller, Logan University**

If God brings you to it: He will bring you through it!

**Sara Edwards, Citizens Bank**

The quality of your life is the quality of your habits.—Rachel Hollis

**Kayla Klein, University of Missouri Columbia**

# What's Your Favorite Quote?

There's always ways of motivating yourself to higher levels. Write about it, dream about it. But after that, turn it into action. Don't just dream. By Dan Gable, former wrestler and coach / Olympic medalist. My boys grew up wrestling and we still quote a lot of Dan Gable around our house, but this one is my favorite.

**Lorrie Baird, East Central College**

Far and away, the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.  
—Teddy Roosevelt

**Valerie Jensen, Washington University**

The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.

—Mark Twain

**Laura Steinbeck, Sallie Mae**

What if I fall? Oh, but my darling, what if you fly?  
—Erin Hanson

**Kimberly Meeker, North Central Missouri College**

Nothing will work unless you do.—Maya Angelou

**Becca Diskin, Missouri Southern State University**

I currently have one on my whiteboard that says: A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity, an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

—Winston Churchill

**Tony, Lubbers, University of Central Missouri**

You treat your body like a temple...I treat mine like a tent.—  
*Fruitcakes*, Jimmy Buffet

**Jon Gruett, East Central College**

Apparently there is nothing that cannot happen today.—Mark Twain

**Jeff Ford, College of the Ozarks**

It doesn't matter how you feel. It matters what you do.

**Stephen Garman, Missouri State University**

Enjoy the little things in life for one day you'll look back and realize they were the big things.

**Marla Fernandez, Truman State University**

When they go low, you go high.

—Michelle Obama

**Melissa Findley, Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation**

None of us is as smart as all of us.—High Five! By Ken Blanchard/Sheldon Bowles/Don Carew/Eunice Parisi-Carew, 2001

**Jim Myers, Webster University**

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity, an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

—Winston Churchill

**Stephanie Broyles, Rolla Technical Institute/Center**

Sometimes you have to let go of the picture of what you thought life would be like and learn to find joy in the story you are actually living.  
—Rachel Marie Martin

Be who you needed when you were younger.—Ayesha Siddiqi

**Patti Mathieson, Culver-Stockton College**

# Journey to College

### **FAFSA Frenzy Update**

Schools and community organizations across Missouri have been hosting FAFSA Frenzy events for students and families since October.

Over the last four months, 192 Frenzy events have been scheduled throughout the state.

Since there are still five FAFSA Frenzy events remaining this month, the total number of students helped has not come in yet. But so far, we can report that – with the help of 330 registered volunteers – more than 1,200 students have received help with filing their FAFSA forms.



### **Journey to College Book Scholarship Deadline Reminder**

This year we made big changes to the FAFSA Frenzy Scholarship. Changes included both the application process and the award amounts. Instead of offering only five scholarships, we are offering twenty \$500 book scholarships – while the scholarships are designated as “book scholarships” the funds can be used for any educational expenses and will be disbursed to the intuition the recipients plan to attend.

The scholarship application is available through Scholarship Central. To be eligible, students need to participate in a FAFSA Frenzy event between Oct. 1, 2019 and Jan. 31, 2020, and create a login in the State Financial Aid Portal.

The scholarship application is due by Feb. 15, 2020.

Contact us at [journeytocollege@dhewd.mo.gov](mailto:journeytocollege@dhewd.mo.gov) with questions.

## **Save the Date**

Journey to College Day  
will be July 28, 2020!  
More details to follow in  
coming newsletters.

# Getting the Word Out: How To Post on the MASFAP-L



*By Stephen Garman, Assistant Director, Missouri State University and MASFAP Technology Chair*

Listservs are a great way to communicate with a group of people who share a common interest, and sending a message is one of the easiest things you can do in your membership profile. The list of recipients is already created for you - you just type and send your message. Here's how:

**1.** Log into your membership profile. You'll be brought to your personal membership page.

***TIP: If you ever get lost while logged in, click on "Profile" on the right side of the browser to bring you back to this page.***

**2.** Click on "My Profile" just below your virtual nametag.

**3.** From the next screen, hover your mouse over the "My Features" tab and select "E-List" from the drop-down menu. ("E-List" is what our website company calls a listserv).

**4.** You'll see all of the E-Lists available for you to subscribe to. Click on the name of the E-List you'd like to message. You must be subscribed to an E-List to send a message

***TIP: You don't always have to message the entire membership. For example, if your message is intended for directors, you can use the Directors E-List. Only members who have subscribed to this E-List will receive your message.***

**5.** Click "Post A New Message." A text box should appear.

**6.** Write your message. Note that your message will be sent to all users who are subscribed to the E-List. Replies to your message will only be seen by you.

**7.** When you are finished, click "Send Message." There will be 5-minute delay before the message is sent.

Members can also send a reply to everyone who received a previous message. While it's not recommended, you are an adult making your own choices. To do this, follow steps 1-4 above. After clicking on the group you want to message you will see a list of messages that have been sent. Click on the message you'd like to reply to in order to bring up that submission. Click "Reply to Message" in the right corner of the text box. Your reply will be seen by everyone.

Most of us will use the "All Members" distribution list, but feel free to use others that are available to you. You can also suggest a new distribution list by emailing the Technology Committee ([webmaster@MASFAP.org](mailto:webmaster@MASFAP.org)).

## Questions?

Email the Technology  
Committee at  
[webmaster@masfap.org](mailto:webmaster@masfap.org)

# 2020 Executive Board / Committee Chairs



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MOHELA; Sabrina Osborn,  
Metropolitan Community  
College; and Natalie  
Crawford, Drury University,  
Stephanie Broyles, Rolla  
Technical Institute/Center**

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MASFAP, the Executive Board  
and Executive Committee are  
not responsible for the  
accuracy of any information  
contained in this newsletter as  
an authority, but rather its use  
as a guide. Further, the  
opinions expressed by the  
contributors are the opinions  
of the authors and do not  
necessarily represent the  
official opinion of MASFAP,  
the Executive Board or the  
Committees.

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### Delegate (Associate)/Assoc. Member Concerns

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## Committees:

### Archives

Kerry Hallahan, Logan University  
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### Association Governance/Legal/ Nominations/Elections

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### Awards

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