



# FINANCIAL AID LEADERS CONFERENCE

*Advancing Biblical Higher Education for Kingdom Impact*

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**  
**APRIL 1-3, 2024**

**CONFERENCE OVERVIEW:** A first ever ABHE conference to address the transformative impacts of the FAFSA Simplification Act, borrower defense claims, financial value transparency, gainful employment, and the strategic leveraging of professional judgement. It features high engagement with financial aid professionals at the leadership counselor or coordinator level. It also equips campus leaders with crucial information related to compliance to better guide the financial aid department and to support updates to strategic plans and institutional initiatives especially related to compliance, growth in enrollment, and higher retention rates. Don't miss this opportunity to stay ahead of the curve in the ever-evolving landscape of financial aid.

## MONDAY | APRIL 1

6:00 — 7:30

**OPENING DINNER AND SHARING — CATERED AT THE ABHE DINING ROOM**

## TUESDAY | APRIL 2

9:00 — 9:15

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS — DAVID MEDDERS, EXECUTIVE VP | ABHE**

9:15 — 10:00

### **SESSION 1: FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION — ARE YOU READY?**

**Presenter: Ben Bishop, Director of Financial Aid | Boise Bible College**

**Overview:** The FAFSA has been simplified, or has it? Learn about the massive changes to the FAFSA, Financial Aid processing updates, and student experience. In this session special care will be taken to learn new or updated terminology, processing changes, and what you can do to both have your financial aid office ready for the updates as well as your student population.

- ▶ Major updates to the FAFSA Simplification act (and others) and what needs to be done
- ▶ Checklists of compliance and processing tasks to be completed for the coming year
- ▶ Interact with case examples that reflect the incoming student population
- ▶ Secure the confidence of enrolled students, future students, and their families

10:00 — 10:30

**Q & A DISCUSSION**

10:30 — 10:45

**REFRESHMENT BREAK**

10:45 — 11:30

### **SESSION 2: BORROWER DEFENSE TO REPAYMENT: OVERVIEW AND CASE STUDY**

**Presenter: Rocky Christensen, Director of Financial Aid | Johnson University**

**Overview:** Borrower Defense to Repayment is an application that a student can submit to make a case that the college engaged in misconduct. This misconduct could range from miscommunicating with students about transfer credits, employment guarantees, program costs, pressuring students to enroll, repetitious contact after asking not to be contacted, etc. You will be equipped to know what you should do about claims that have been made as well as advise to prepare for claims that may be brought against your college in the future.

- ▶ The history of borrower defense and why the surge in cases being submitted
- ▶ Walkthrough of borrower defense claims and where you upload responses to the claims
- ▶ Review the consequences for not responding well with claims
- ▶ Case study review of how one college approached the claims that were made against it

11:30 — 12:00

**Q & A DISCUSSION**

12:00 — 1:00

**LUNCH — CATERED IN THE ABHE DINING ROOM**

1:00 — 1:45

### **SESSION 3: FINANCIAL VALUE TRANSPARENCY AND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT: WHAT SOME COLLEGES MUST IMPLEMENT AND ALL COLLEGES MUST IMPLEMENT**

**Presenter: Gina Garlington, Director of Financial Aid | Beulah Heights University**

**Overview:** This session focuses on the steps an institution must follow to remain compliant with the new Financial Value Transparency regulations that were passed as well as the return to gainful employment for some institutions.

- ▶ Relevant details from the Department of Education and crucial compliance factors
- ▶ Following the gainful employment regulations, what steps to take
- ▶ Completing a diagnostic for compliance at your college
- ▶ Steps ensure smooth implementation of the financial value transparency regulations

1:45 — 2:15

**Q & A DISCUSSION**

2:15 — 2:30

**REFRESHMENT BREAK**

**TUESDAY | APRIL 2 (CONT'D)**
**2:30 — 3:15**
**SESSION 4: STRATEGIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CERTIFICATION, AND CREDENTIALS**
**Presenter: Rocky Christensen, Kristen Loft and Joselyn Colon, Financial Aid Counselors | Johnson University**

**Overview:** Discover insights and strategies for professional development, certification and credentialing. Explore best sources for funding opportunities and resources to receive the necessary training to excel in their roles. Enhance your skills and knowledge as a financial aid professional. Serve your students and institutions with excellence.

- ▶ Strategies and ideas for professional development with limited funding
- ▶ Building a holistic professional development calendar with free and paid opportunities
- ▶ Information to demystify the NASFAA testing and credentialing process
- ▶ Live walk through of the NASFAA testing environment

**3:15 — 3:45**
**Q & A DISCUSSION**
**3:45 — 4:00**
**WRAP-UP**
**4:00 — 5:00**
**REFRESH & RELAX — HILTON GARDEN INN**
**5:00 — 6:30**
**DINNER OFF SITE**
**WEDNESDAY | APRIL 3**
**9:00 — 9:15**
**INSIGHTS FROM THE WORD | DAVID MEDDERS**
**9:15 — 10:00**
**SESSION 5: CONSUMER INFORMATION CREDENTIAL**
**Presenter: Rocky Christensen**

**Overview:** This NASFAA authorized workshop is designed to guide colleges in maintaining compliance with regulations that can lead to institutional fines, problems with accreditation, borrower defense claims, Department of Education audits, and monetary or non-monetary findings in annual audits. The workshop aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to successfully complete their NASFAA credential and enhance their ability to ensure their colleges meet the Department of Education's crucial compliance expectations.

- ▶ Be equipped to pass the NASFAA Consumer Information examination
- ▶ Review compliance issues often flagged in audit findings

**10:00 — 10:30**
**Q & A DISCUSSION**
**10:30 — 10:45**
**REFRESHMENT BREAK**
**10:45 — 11:30**
**SESSION 6: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**Overview:** Discuss the most pressings financial issues you are facing with both the panel of presenters and attendee affinity groups. Create a draft of your **Personal Action Plan** based on the most significant and urgent issues you should address following the conference

**11:30 — 12:00**
**Q & A DISCUSSION AND WRAP-UP**
**12:00 — 1:00**
**CLOSING BOXED LUNCH — ABHE DINING ROOM**