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Editor's Column, V43N2

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Editor’s Column

In my relatively short time serving as the Associate Editor of the Journal of Student Financial Aid, it has become clear to me that each member of the editorial team - Jake, Gigi, and Editorial Board - is relentlessly committed to the quality and success of the Journal. The editorial team felt it was important to begin cultivating the next generation of JSFA leaders to ensure the continued quality and success that is brought to financial aid community three times a year. With the support of NASFAA’s National Board, the Journal’s editorial team set out on a national search to recruit a cadre early career professionals with affinity for and affiliation to the Journal. Earlier this Spring, we welcomed the inaugural cohort for the new Rising Professionals Editorial Board! I am excited to share the great news that our editorial team is not only growing in size, but also in its range of talent and expertise.

This new board brings together a diverse group of early-career financial aid administrators, policy analysts, and doctoral students who will contribute to the development and advancement of the Journal. Each member places a high priority on bridging financial aid research with practice, and they represent a wide array of experiences and expertise to help the Journal continue to publish high quality, timely, and relevant research for the field. These new members will receive professional development and networking opportunities while gaining valuable experience and exposure to the Journal’s operations. Specific activities include: soliciting journal articles, reviewing submissions with the highly-esteemed Editorial Board, participating in reviewer training, contributing book reviews, and engaging in board planning efforts. The editorial team will train new board members on information about journal submission processes, best practices in crafting a review, and ethical and professional concerns in the publication process. This is a truly unique opportunity designed to advance the Journal and to help grow the next generation of JSFA leadership.

I would like to share a few words about the Rising Professional Editorial Board selection process. The search yielded 63 applicants from 26 states (including the District of Columbia) and it was clear that we drew an exceptional pool of talent, which is a testament to the quality and skill of the NASFAA membership. Most of the applicants were from current financial aid administrators (41%), graduate students (29%), or both (19%). Another 11% of our applicants came from governmental organizations or think tanks, adding breadth into the pool. Most of the applicants came from public (52%) or private (27%) four-year colleges and universities. Community colleges were less-represented in the applicant pool and approximately one-in-ten applicants came from the proprietary sector. We plan to solicit new board members as terms expire, so please keep this professional opportunity in mind if you know of promising early-career professionals.
Join me in welcoming the inaugural 2013 cohort of Rising Professionals

Editorial Board:

Matthew Berry, Doctoral Student (University of Louisville)
Valerie Culler, Director of Financial Aid (Monroe County Community College)
Paul Dieken, Senior Associate Director (University of Southern California)
Allyson Flaster, Doctoral Student (University of Michigan)
Shannon Franklin, Doctoral Student (Vanderbilt University)
Mark Huelsman, Research Analyst (Institute for Higher Education Policy)
Mark Justice, Financial Aid Counselor and Work-Study Coordinator (Stetson University)
Vandeen McKenzie, Director of Financial Aid (New Mexico State University – Alamogordo)
Jose Munoz, Doctoral Student (University of Missouri)
Amanda Rutherford, Doctoral Student (Texas A&M University)

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