



“A space to pause, learn, and move forward together in a changing financial aid landscape.”
— MASFAA Summit Committee

9:30 – 10:00 AM

Light Breakfast & Refreshments

10:00 – 11:15 AM

Pause, Then Move Forward: Leading Through the 2026 Financial Aid Shift

Panelists:

Kesia Davis-Rezendes, Bunker Hill Community College
Valeria Harris, Harvard Graduate School of Education
Julie Lawton, Monogram Personalized Student Loans
Amy Staffier, Simmons University

Facilitator: Bonnie Quinn, Wellesley College

Using a “Pause” framework, panelists will share practical strategies for decision-making, communication, and maintaining momentum without reacting to every headline. **Attendees will leave with actionable ideas and cross-sector insight** to help guide their own institutional planning and leadership conversations.

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM **Trust but Verify: Research Skills for Financial Aid Professionals in the Age of AI** **Presenter:** Brianna Juaire Northeastern University

This session explores **the balance between AI efficiency and the interpretation and discernment skills foundational to Title IV compliance**. Participants will learn a practical framework: how to clarify questions, locate authoritative sources, apply findings to institutional practices, and document decisions. We'll examine how AI tools fit into this framework, identifying when they enhance productivity and when they cannot replace human judgment. Through real-world scenarios, we'll examine common mistakes AI makes in financial aid settings and red flags signaling when human expertise is non-negotiable.

12:30 – 1:30 PM

Lunch

1:30 – 2:30 PM

Same Work, Different Lenses: A Cross-Generational Look at 2026

Panelists:

Krystal Costa, Wellesley College
Sam Shroll, UMass Boston
Erika Callahan, Northern Essex Community College

Facilitator: Matt Gingras,

Through a **candid and practical conversation**, panelists will explore communication styles, workplace expectations, burnout prevention, boundaries, and what each generation wishes others better understood. This session will focus on the human side of the work: **how we sustain ourselves, support our teams, and continue**

2:30

Annual Gavel Passing & Volunteer of the Year Presentation