

 **“Be Extraordinary”**

**Day One Tuesday June 10, 2014**

**8:00-9:00 Registration**

**8:30-9:15 Breakfast**

**9:00-9:15 Welcome**

 **VASFAA President – Greg Davis**

**9:15-10:30 Keynote Speaker - Colin Ryan**

Colin is a stand-up comedian who talks to youth about overcoming depression and fear, and brings to life the dry subject of managing money. He has performed across the United Sates as well as internationally. He has empowered over 50,000 students and adults to overcome fear, debt, and self-doubt, and has raised over $50,000 for charities and nonprofits, including Make-A-Wish, United Way and hurricane rebuilding projects. We are looking forward to a captivating presentation!

**10:30-10:45 Break**

**10:45-12:00 How America Pays for College**

In its seventh year, Sallie Mae’s national study of *How America Pays for College* paints a picture of the commitment and resourcefulness of undergraduate college students and parents as they make the investment in higher education.  One of the survey’s leading findings confirms what we all hear: families believe in the value of a college education.  However, greater cost-conscious behavior appears to be an outcome of the post-recession reality. Join us for this session to learn about some of the actions families are taking to make college more affordable, along with some other findings from the 2013 survey and a preview of some early findings from the 2014 survey to be published later in the summer. The session can help you understand how families think about college value and affordability, and the sources they draw on to pay for college—information you might use when providing families with guidance on funding their student’s education.

 **What Faculty and Advisors Need to Know About Financial Aid**

Present an overview of the areas that impact financial aid eligibility and require interaction with other offices such as Academic Standing, Enrollment Status, Attendance, Withdrawals (official and federally defined “unofficial withdrawals”), Repeat courses, Incompletes, and courses that do not apply toward the degree or certificate.

Discuss some of the challenges and potential solutions

Provide reference to regulatory requirements

Offer communication strategies and list suggested offices to be included

**Where Do I Find It and What Does It Mean: Building Your Compliance Toolkit**

Have questions about student aid rules & regulations? Wondering whether something is compliant? Trying to keep up with the latest regulatory changes? Still stumped after reading the FSA Handbook?  This session will highlight the many resources available to assist you in finding answers to your student aid questions and keeping up with the latest legislative and regulatory changes.  Please bring your tips and research strategies to share with others in attendance, because there is no such thing as having too many resources.

**12:00-2:00 VASFAA business meeting and EASFAA Update**

**Lunch**

**2:00-2:15 Break**

**2:15-3:30** **Cohort Default Rate/Default Mgmt.**

As Cohort Default Rates continue to rise, what steps are schools taking to implement default prevention?  This session will explore strategies campuses can implement and will feature a panel discussion of financial aid professionals who will provide an overview of what they are doing on their campus.   Resources and best practices will be shared.

 **This…Is…Jeopardy**

This slight take on the popular game show Jeopardy will generate discussion and bring out the competition in everyone as teams “show what they know” (or not) with categories ranging from the Vermont Colleges, the VASFAA conference, our vendors, and of course financial aid. Complete with fun buzzers this session is sure to be enjoyable.

**Veteran Education Benefits – Practical Applications and Considerations.**

What are the Veterans Administration’s GI Bills? How many are there? How do they impact Federal Student Aid? How do I process GI Bill financial data? The “GI Bill” is actually 70 years old this year and in those seven decades has become a family of GI Bills. Each provide a variety of education benefits in different ways and are a challenge to keep straight.. Each benefit was crafted for Veterans that served in specific eras and capacities.

Dave will review the current GI Bills, who they provide for, and what they provide. Dave will also spend time reviewing the financial aid considerations and interactions with the various GI Bills.

Bring your questions!

**3:30-3:45 Break**

**3:45-4:45** **General Session Panel of College Presidents**

Scott Giles, Tim Donovan

**5:30-6:30 Cocktail Hour/Cash Bar**

**Vendor Recognition**

Please join us in recognizing the vendors that support our conference each year.

**6:30 Dinner and Mystery Theater**

Join us for a delicious Italian buffet dinner provided by the Killington Grande hotel and Mystery Theater presented by the Vermont Theatre Company from Brattleboro, Vermont.

New York’s Little Italy is lively and bustling. Restaurants abound full of people raucously engaged in conversation. Take a turn off the main concourse and you’ll find yourself on a quiet street, home of La Sperenza, a family run operation and one of Little Italy’s most famous. The restaurant has a family atmosphere, warm and inviting, cozy and welcoming.

Diners tip their glasses and savor red and white wine while waiting for their scrumptious food to arrive. Tonight, however, is different. Four days ago restauranteur Guiseppe (Pepi) Roni was found murdered in the kitchen of his renowned eatery. Pepi had been shot in the back with his own pistol. Tonight, his family and friends have gathered to pay their respects to poor Pepi and to eat a feast in his honor. One of them, however, is a murderer.

**Day Two Wednesday June 11, 2014**

**8:30-9:00 Registration**

**8:15-9:00 Breakfast**

**9:00-9:15 Welcome**

**9:15-9:45 State Update**

**9:45-10:45** **General Session - Castleton’s Student Support Network**

Surveys of college students’ mental health and well-being highlight high levels of anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation. Beyond well-staffed counseling services, comprehensive suicide prevention efforts can be significantly enhanced by strategically connecting with and educating students within existing campus networks of support.

The Student Support Network (SSN) is a training program which teaches students to recognize warning signs of distress in their friends, gain insight into common mental health challenges, practice bringing up their concerns in a sympathetic and nonjudgmental way, and build expertise at connecting friends to other support resources.

Castleton State College is completing its sixth cycle of SSN training for students. Additionally, two groups of faculty and staff have been trained in the program. This presentation will include a description of the curriculum and training process of SSN as well as the benefits of the program for participants and the campus community.

**10:45-11:00 Break**

**11:00-12:15** **Taking the Bite out of Ergonomic Injuries**

This session will cover how to take personal charge in your Ergonomic well-being including avoiding the pitfalls of bad office set-ups, band-aids for office ergonomics and new ergonomic technology.

 **Overview of Changes from the DOE**

Pam Gilligan from the Department of Education will present a session on changes in the different areas of financial aid including the FAFSA, DOMA and verification. Participant questions and interests will lead some of the discussion.

 **Empathic Listening**

There are many tools that can be used to assist students in college. When a student appears to be experiencing distress, Empathic Listening is the most effective and powerful tool that can be used to provide support for the student in the moment.

This workshop will provide knowledge regarding empathic listening and the reasons it is such a powerful tool. For those who are interested, it will be a participatory workshop, providing the opportunity to practice empathic listening. Workshop participants may also observe if they do not wish to participate.

**12:15-1:15 Lunch**

**Years of Service Recognition**

**Door Prizes**

**1:15-2:30** **150% Subsidized Rule from the DOE**

Pam Gilligan from the Department of Education will present the specifics of the new 150% Subsidized loan Rule.

 **The Alumni Hangover: How Student Experience is Impacting You**

As enrollment and retention leaders, we all face the pressures of improving admission yield and retention, encouraging our students to take interest in—and engage in—the life of our institutions. And, while we’re often focused on students’ in-school lives, those decisions and interactions are powerful influences for years to come.  Join us for this session as we take a closer look at recent data that shows how alumni perceptions toward their student loan debt, sense of preparedness for their chosen career, and campus experiences impact the desire to give back to their institutions. Come prepared to consider and discuss strategies for engaging campus partners who can help improve your current students’ experience today and your alumni’s perception and engagement in the future.

 **Professional Development Roundtable**

Professional development is important in all professions. Participants are welcome to bring their experiences to this open discussion on where to find professional development opportunities, why professional development is important and how it helps you to be successful.

**2:30-3:30 Federal Update**

Scott Giles, VSAC