

KASFAA recognized the following members as 2007 Awards Recipients during our Spring Conference, held April 24 – 27, 2007 at the Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel:

Outstanding Service Award

KASFAA would like to recognize **Mandy Peterson** for her dedication to the KASFAA position of Treasurer. Mandy has done an excellent job at improving the procedures that guide this important position. She has served in this position willingly and enthusiastically. She is recognized for her dedication to serving our organization.

Meritorious Achievement Award

Elaine Henrie joined the financial aid community in 2000 and hit the ground running. She has been an active member of KASFAA, presenting at the state, regional and national level. In addition to presenting, she has also served and is currently serving on multiple committees at all three levels.

During the past two years, Elaine has gone above and beyond the call of duty in serving KASFAA. With the resignation of the KASFAA President in 2005, the organization found itself in an unusual situation – and Elaine was thrust into fulfilling the duties of both the President Elect and the President. To add to her responsibilities, her office was in the midst of planning and preparing to bring up a new software program. You would think one might become frustrated volunteering time to a professional organization and working with students and parents who are often “stressed” about finding enough funding to help meet the cost of higher education, but for Elaine, to borrow a phrase from Marion, “never gets her knickers in a twist”. She gives unselfishly of her time, her energy and her love, not only to her professional organization, and her university, but most importantly to the students she serves.

Hall of Fame Award

Julie Cooper has been in financial aid since 1986. She started at Emporia State as a graduate student in the student employment area. An employee currently at Emporia State indicated that Julie was efficient and worked well with the students at that time. Julie actually worked in the public school system prior to Emporia State so she has had many, many years in education which furthered her commitment to students.

In 1987, Julie worked at Kansas University as Assistant Director and worked with the federal work study program and became Associate Director a few years later. As Associate Director, she was in charge of office personnel issues and worked with students. She handled the difficult students in a way that would immediately deescalate any unacceptable behavior. Julie was said to always place students first while holding them responsible for their actions. She still is a role model to current employees at Kansas University.

In 1998, Julie accepted the position of Financial Aid Director at Johnson County Community College. She is a great resource for information regarding any regulatory issues and financial aid history. Her commitment to students, employees and the mission of JCCC is demonstrated everyday as she works long hours and keeps a good attitude about it all. She has brought many positive changes to the JCCC financial aid department. We disburse our funds prior to the first day of classes which really benefits our student population. She meets with many students to help resolve delicate or difficult situations and she does so in a professional and positive manner.

Julie has served on every KASFAA committee. She has recently served as RMASFAA secretary. For several years, Julie participated in RMASFAA summer institute as a leadership instructor. She has probably attended every KASFAA, RMASFAA and NASFAA conference for the last 9 years. She has participated in College Goal Sunday in Kansas every year. She has participated as high school counselor trainer in the state of Kansas for at least 5 years. In 2007-2008, Julie will be Vice-President of KASFAA. At JCCC, she is a member of the Student Affairs committee as well as many other committees too numerous to mention.

She participated in the NASFAA Best Practices symposiums during 2006 presenting three symposiums throughout the country on the subject of SAP. As a result of Julie's participation with this committee, she was asked to present an abbreviated version of the SAP presentation to the President's Council in Maine. There were 25 college presidents in attendance. Her advice was to "introduce yourselves to your financial aid directors". She emphasized that their financial aid directors are a very important part of their campuses.