



Committee on Student Financial Assistance (COSFA)

**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
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Message from the COSFA chair



On behalf of my fellow COSFA members, we are looking forward to another productive and exciting year for our financial aid community.

First, some introductions:

Please join me in welcoming to our new committee members: Dr. Donna Jackson (COSDA Liaison), Casey Wiley (Southern Regional rep), Kris Slaney (COSFA/COSR Liaison) and Marissa Miles (COSFA/COSR Liaison). We are all looking forward to working with you.

The mission of COSFA is to provide guidance to our members and others on legislative and regulatory issues regarding the type, availability, and delivery of financial assistance to medical students. COSFA achieves its mission through:

Reviewing reports from AAMC staff on the status of specific financial aid legislation and national AAMC data describing the distribution of financial aid to medical students.

Assessing educational and support programs and activities in order to assist schools in counseling students about financing their medical education and the repayment of student loans.

Collaborating with the AAMC's FIRST (Financial Information, Resources, Services, and Tools) program.

Identifying special projects related to issues of national importance and interest.

Participating in Professional Development Conferences.

This year, we will focus on:

Advocating around matters that affect medical schools and students, such as PSLF and GRAD Plus

Providing improved professional development opportunities for our members that will result in credits towards nationally recognized certifications

Collaborating with other student affairs committees to tackle recurring issues in our communities, such as SAP, Standard Term definitions, etc.

Providing tools for our New and seasoned graduates to navigate the PSLF and TEPSLF process.

Our community is defined by its engaged, exciting, diverse, and thoughtful members, and I genuinely value input from each of you. I welcome your ideas and suggestions about how we can best achieve our goals and advance our efforts. I'd also be interested in hearing about your personal or professional endeavors, accomplishments, service efforts, or life events you would like to share with the COSFA community.

Thank you, and here's to another great year!

Damien Jackson M.Ed.
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