



July 2, 2018

Mr. James Manning
Acting Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
Acting Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid
400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington DC 20202

Dear Mr. Manning:

I extend our sincerest appreciation for sending representatives from the Department of Education's Offices of Postsecondary Education (OPE) and Federal Student Aid (FSA) to the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators' (NASFAA) annual conference that took place last week in Austin, Texas.

Thousands of NASFAA members benefited from the knowledge, expertise, and timely updates ED staff shared on topics ranging from Title IV aid for transfer students, to year-round Pell, to the 2018-19 FAFSA and more. We greatly appreciate that, in addition to filling every time slot we asked Department staff to take, ED representatives made themselves readily accessible to speak with financial aid administrators directly about policy guidance, administrative procedures, and operational requirements.

Above all, I wanted to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the open dialogue with FSA over this past year. We are pleased our relationship, particularly with regard to operational matters, has grown stronger, and we value the regular meetings we have with FSA staff.

Financial aid offices at colleges and universities are the conduit through which students access the federal student aid programs. Successful implementation of the Title IV programs depends on maintaining a productive partnership.

As we move forward in our shared goal of providing eligible students with the access to resources and support they need to pursue a higher education, we look forward to maintaining a strong working relationship with the Department of Education.

Best regards,

Justin Draeger, President & CEO

Cc: Kathleen Smith, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, FSA
Lynn Mahaffie, Delegated Duties of Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education