

To all of my KASFAA friends and family,

To say this has been a difficult year would be an understatement. Not getting to see and hug each other last spring when we had to cancel our conference, navigating the ever changing CARES rules, explaining to some why they didn't qualify for CARES funds, processing documents that students waited until August to turn in because they weren't sure what the fall would bring, switching to and navigating remote work while possibly also having to assist with remote school, 15,000 people all trying to attend the FSA Conference at one time (ok, that one was funny, or you just had to laugh to not be annoyed). The list goes on and on, but I don't have to tell you that.

Financial aid administrators are known for their compassion and resilience. That was tested more than ever this year and you persevered. Thank you for the extra energy you gave and extra hours you put in to make sure the students were taken care of. You are amazing.

This KASFAA year has looked nothing like I had started planning from the moment I knew I would be president. Yet, in the midst of all the craziness, the amazing volunteers we have this year have stepped up and given their all. I have to say that I am fortunate to have an outstanding board this year, and I know those committee chairs also have wonderful volunteers that have done some outstanding and impressive work! Thank you to all who committed themselves to volunteer this year. You are amazing.

I ask that you reflect on 2020 and identify one positive that you experienced or witnessed this year. I put the board on the spot last week, and asked them this same question. As we went around the zoom window and shared, it was heartwarming to hear everyone's stories. I would now like to do this on a grander scale. If you are so inclined, please anonymously share your positive through this [Google Form](#). I will collect them and share them through the blog to kick 2021 off on a happy and positive note.

No matter which of the holidays you celebrate November-January, I hope that you have an enjoyable and happy one (or ones). I hope that you have some days off to relax and rejuvenate before the spring semester starts. Take some time for yourself and take care of yourself. It's ok to put yourself first.

I would be lying to you if I told you I haven't been counting down the days, minutes, and hours until the two weeks that we have off that starts Friday at 5:00pm...and I am certain that I'm not alone. I've told my husband he is to hide all of my work stuff (in our house) where I won't find it, so that I have no temptation to check if anyone needs anything. I need to take care of myself and I plan to relax, read, workout, clean (you would think that being home more, it wouldn't be this bad...but it is. Little cleaning was accomplished in the last 8 months). In fact my husband just called me to say, "are you sure you want these ingredients? I don't want you to stress out when you're supposed to be relaxing." So let me add that I hope that you also have someone in your life that will support you in your rest and relaxation.

Happy holidays and, most importantly, YOU are amazing.

Darcy