

The “Funancial” Aid Office

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Let's face it....working in the financial aid office can be stressful! In addition, the current economic downturn has created even more workplace stress for employees and organizations. Budget cuts are forcing many offices to do more with less. Research has shown that people who have fun at work are more likely to be more productive. It is more important than ever to incorporate a fun environment into the workplace. Here are just a few ways that PASFAA members have transformed their financial aid offices into “funancial” aid offices.

Messiah College celebrated Groundhog Day in February with a one of a kind party. Be sure to read the article and check out the pictures in this edition of the PASFAA Post.

Montgomery County Community College likes to combine fun with Financial Aid Awareness. Last year's awareness theme was centered around April Fool's Day. Staff wore jester hats and a FAFSA Completion Day was advertised with the slogan “Don't be foolish: File your FAFSA by May 1st.” For their community wide FAFSA Completion Day in February, cake was served to remind students how easy the FAFSA is to complete. Food is always fun!



Jeanine Lawn, Director of Financial Aid at University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, shared photos of the friendly holiday decorating competition that their office held in December. “The staff and the students who participated really had a great time transforming the Financial Aid Office into a wonderland and our office's visitors really enjoyed the atmosphere we created. For about a month, we really worked in a magical environment.” The local news even caught wind of the good cheer and featured the office in a short segment during the evening and nightly news.



These are just a few ways that PASFAA members add fun to their work environment. We spend a substantial portion of our life at work, so why not make that time enjoyable? If you cannot think of creative ideas on your own, there are plenty of resources available at local bookstores or on the internet. Perhaps you could start with June 17, 2010, which is National Recess at Work Day. The founder, Rich DiGirolamo suggests that it is “the perfect opportunity to create team spirit, engage employees, increase morale and share your fun side with the people you spend the majority of your life with.” For more information on National Recess at Work Day, visit their website at www.recessatworkday.com