

2020 Virtual Federal Student Aid Training Conference

Speaker Bio

Session: BO20. Program Review Essentials



PRESENTER NAME: Arva Thomas

PRESENTER TITLE: Training Officer

PRESENTER BUSINESS UNIT: Training and Information Services Group

PRESENTER BIO: Arva Thomas has been with Federal Student Aid for 19 years and counting. She has held various positions throughout the organization, working with students, schools, and federal, state, and local stakeholders. In 2010, she began working in Program Compliance, where she served as an Institutional Review Specialist for five years, conducting program reviews, handling routine and complex eligibility actions, and resolving compliance audits. She then served as an Institutional Improvement Specialist for five years before recently joining the Training and Information Services Group in 2020. Training and public speaking are her professional passions, and Arva has several years of experience leading internal and external training initiatives at FSA. She is a sought-after speaker and trainer, as well as a former teacher with experience at both the secondary and postsecondary levels.

Arva is a Georgia native. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Spanish Education and Master of Arts in Spanish Linguistics from the University of Georgia. She also earned an Associate's Certificate in Project Management through The George Washington University. Arva resides north of Atlanta with her twin teenage sons. In her spare time, she enjoys Zumba, reading, baking, painting, travel, live theatre, and spending time with family and friends.