

FSA Training Conference

Speaker Bio

Session: BO11. Top 10 Compliance Findings

Effie Barnett

*Training Officer, Training and Information Services Group,
Federal Student Aid*

Effie Barnett is excited to be part of this year's virtual training conference! She is celebrating 37 years in financial aid in December 2021 and still loves her work. Effie began her career at DeVry University Chicago in 1984, where she advanced to director of financial aid. She then worked at the U.S. Department of Education in 1990 and 1991 as an institutional review specialist in Chicago, and alternate training officer for the Chicago and Atlanta regional offices. She left the Department to work at Northwestern University, and was the director of financial aid - Chicago for 12 of those 16 years. Effie realized that her heart belonged to public service and returned to Federal Student Aid (FSA) in 2008 as an institutional review specialist in the Chicago office. She became an institutional improvement specialist in 2010 and remained in that position until becoming a training officer in spring 2020. Effie has processed eligibility and method of payment actions; resolved deficient compliance audits; and conducted program reviews and new school visits. She has been developing and delivering training to school officials and FSA staff since 2012, and exclusively since 2016.



Effie received a bachelor's degree of music in piano performance from the Sherwood Conservatory of Music. While working full-time, she attained a Master of Project Management degree from the Keller Graduate School of Management at DeVry in 1988, and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in 2000.

Training, community service, and public speaking are Effie's passions! She has been a piano teacher, natural childbirth instructor, and reading tutor; chess club, fundraising, food drive, and holiday donations coordinator; and president of a local Toastmasters International club. Effie is a licensed amateur radio operator and has participated in community events as a communications volunteer. She enjoys playing piano, attending classical music concerts, reading, trying new recipes, and raising houseplants.