

## FSA Training Conference

### Speaker Bio

Session(s): BO15. Third-Party Debt Relief: Implementing the *STOP Act*

## Michael Ruggless

*Program Specialist, Policy Implementation and Oversight, Policy Implementation Liaison Group*

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Michael is a policy and program specialist for the Policy Implementation and Liaison Group at Federal Student Aid (FSA). He began his career in financial aid as a graduate assistant at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville serving as a financial aid counselor. He spent more than 10 years in the financial aid industry at institutions of higher education with an emphasis on financial aid counseling, federal, state, and institution compliance, consumer information, data management, and policy and implementation analysis.

Since joining FSA, Michael's work focused on training for new financial aid administrators on various aspects of administering the *Title IV* programs operationally along with other operational efforts in the Grants and Campus-Based Group. In addition, his policy and implementation expertise in the PIL Group, focuses on financial literacy, the Federal Work-Study (FWS) and Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) Programs, FAFSA® data and acceptable use under the *Higher Education Act* (HEA), as amended, as well as liaison efforts with state agencies and recently the implementation of the *Stop Student Debt Relief Scams Act (STOP Act)*.

