Letter from the Chair

July 2026

To all Participants of the Treasury Institute for Higher Education programs, I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer as we all prepare for the upcoming 2026/27 fiscal year. We are now six months past the historic storms that made travel to Treasury Symposium 2026 a challenge for everyone. Remarkably, over two hundred of us made it to San Antonio and helped make the three days a success! This is a reminder to all of us at the Treasury Institute of how important it is to bring everyone together and to continue facilitating programs that are relevant and thought provoking. Our Program Committee is beginning the hard work to build Treasury Symposium 2027 in Las Vegas with the theme, *High Stakes in Higher Education.* As I write this letter the Institute recently opened registration and over eighty practitioners have already committed to join us in Las Vegas.

As we announced at Symposium in January, Jon Speare is retiring after 26 years with the Treasury Institute. We are all extremely grateful for Jon's leadership and contributions to the higher education finance community (more to come on this). Jon's retirement was effective June 30th, and I am pleased to announce that Susan Krauss and Mary Peloquin-Dodd are now Co-Executive Directors of the Institute. Susan and Mary have big shoes to fill, but I am confident they are up to the task.

In conjunction with Jon's retirement, the Institute is excited to launch the inaugural Founders' Award for Excellence to recognize excellence and innovation in the higher education treasury/finance community. Please **click here** for more information about this new award. The Institute is also excited to announce new annual scholarships, provided by AFP, to cover the cost of one CTP/CTP Exam Preparation Platform Bundle and one FPAC/FPAC Exam Preparation Platform Bundle. Please **click here** for more information about the new AFP scholarships. The new award and scholarships serve to honor both of the Institute's founders, Jon and Dennis Reedy, who retired in 2023. Jon and Dennis formed the Treasury Institute in 2000 to promote networking and provide superior-quality, practitioner-driven professional education. That mission continues today and will remain unchanged in the future as it is a proven, successful model. For more information about Jon and Dennis, **click here**. These links are also accessible through our website treasuryinstitute.org.

The summer continues to be an event-filled season for the Treasury Institute staff as once again we will partner with SACUBO's CBMI program at the University of Kentucky to facilitate the annual Treasury Track. The four-day program continues to grow in participation and in content, encompassing twenty-five hours of treasury education giving financial officers a solid knowledge of treasury management. The Institute added new faculty and new classes to this robust curriculum and looks forward to a rewarding week at the end of July. I want to thank and recognize Susan Krauss, Co- Executive Director, for her leadership in overseeing the Treasury Track and pushing forward with continued improvements. As part of the Treasury Institute's commitment to grow peer group networks within higher education finance, the Institute provided funding for several full scholarships to students in the Treasury Track.

The Institute is also busy developing a Bond Compliance Program that will be rolled out this Fall. This virtual program will consist of five courses that deal with the complexities of issuing municipal debt and the required compliance over the life cycle of a bond. This subject was the top priority in last year's Practitioner Survey responses and has been a priority focus for the Treasury Institute staff. Our Program Committee is a distinguished group of institutional practitioners that are working hard to develop a relevant and valuable curriculum. Registration for the initial session, and the entire series, will be coming soon so please keep an eye out for further information. I appreciate the work that Co-Executive Director Mary Peloquin-Dodd is doing to bring this program from concept to formulation, as well as Associate Director Al Rodack who obtained the necessary support to make it happen. What makes the Treasury Institute unique and essential is this process of identifying a need within higher education and bringing the best resources together to create a strong, practitioner-led program.

The Treasury Institute has continued to facilitate the Senior Financial Officer Roundtables, both virtually and on-site. I lead these discussions as the group addressed challenges facing large universities. I am excited to see the Institute expand its role in promoting and expanding network opportunities in higher education. These discussions that began ten years ago have become important vehicles that allow senior officers to navigate through the difficult times facing higher education. I appreciate the Institute's leadership in facilitating these important discussions. Our networking focus was not only on senior financial officers as we took steps to broaden the Treasury Listserv. This vital tool has helped treasury managers identify current challenges and share solutions throughout the higher education community. This past year we focused on building the community of users and increasing the discussions. If you are not on the Treasury Listserv, please go to treasuryinstitute.org and sign up. Both the Senior Financial Officer Roundtable and the Treasury Listserv are critical components of our mission to connect people, ideas and solutions.

The Treasury Institute is governed by a strong and committed Board. This year Chris Cowen, EVP and Chief Financial Officer of Cornell University, joined our Board. Chris has been an active participant of Treasury Symposium since the beginning, as well as being an active member of the Senior Financial Officer Roundtable, and a founder of the Treasury Management Leadership Group. We look forward to his leadership and guidance as the Institute continues to evolve into the future.

Importantly, I need to recognize Jenn Kirkwood, our meeting planner, who oversees our programs and makes sure things run smoothly in a way that looks seamless. Since 2018 Jenn has managed all programs for the Treasury Institute as well as virtual and social media materials. She is an important part of our team that we rely on to manage our programs at a very high level of quality. Thank you, Jenn!

Lastly, I want to personally thank Jon Speare and acknowledge his retirement as an important milestone for the Institute. Jon's retirement marks a true passing of the guard, from founders to the next chapter. Jon's role with the Treasury Institute began with the initial formulation discussions, finding support for establishing a not-for-profit, bringing the right resources to make the first Treasury Symposium happen, and ultimately building an important foundation for higher education for over twenty-five years. The Institute Board signed a proclamation giving Jon the status of Executive Director Emeritus, **view it here**. Although we will miss Jon as part of our leadership, we have benefitted by the strong organization that he has been a critical part. If you would like to leave Jon a sendoff note, please leave a comment on our LinkedIn page.

To all our partners, practitioners and supporters who make the Treasury Institute successful, all the best.

Kelli D. Shomaker
Chair, The Treasury Institute for Higher Education

Treasury Institute for Higher Education