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**CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO IN SACRAMENTO HOSTS VIRTUAL STEPS
TO COLLEGE 2021**

*Latino High School Students from 24 Northern California Counties Are Invited to the
Virtual College Financial Aid & Admissions Fair*

Sacramento, CA – (2021) – “This year’s virtual *Pasos a la Universidad* is expected to attract thousands of students and their families,” said Liliana Ferrer, Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento. She added, “There will be representatives from the California Student Aid Commission as well as over 40 public and independent California colleges and universities, providing information on admission and financial aid processes.”

Ferrer, whose father once served as Consul of Mexico in Sacramento, is a graduate of Sacramento City Community College and the University of California, Davis. She is proud to now be able to help open university doors for the region’s Latino students and is partnering with Executive Director Marlene Garcia of the California Student Aid Commission, and approximately two dozen organizations, to bring resources, grants, scholarships and more to both documented and undocumented students in Northern California.

Garcia is a 1st generation college graduate who received a Cal Grant financial aid award to complete her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles. She now oversees the State’s \$2.7 billion financial aid portfolio. Garcia said, “The California Dream Act serves more than 50,000 students each academic year. We are making every effort to reach all Dream Act students who are potentially eligible for a Cal Grant Award to submit their application before California’s March 2nd financial aid deadline to attend a four-year campus. The annual Steps to College fair helps us share accurate and timely information to students and their families. A lot of hard work goes into the planning of Steps to College, now in its tenth year. Many volunteers are working side-by-side with staff representing all segments of higher education. We’re all determined and committed to the goal of encouraging young Latino students to get a college or career education.”

Ferrer says Mexican and other Latino communities, “are eager and ambitious – in the best sense of the word: they want to produce, to work towards the betterment of the community and the society that they live in; a community that has done so much for them.”

This event is **FREE**. **Steps to College 2021** will be presented in both Spanish and English and parents are encouraged to attend. This year due to the virtual format, we will be hosting Steps to

College throughout the month of February with live workshops every Saturday starting February 06. It is important to note that you must register beforehand to be given access to the virtual platform. Students will also have the opportunity to apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) through virtual Cash for College webinars in conjunction with Steps to College, where they will have access to free assistance in filling out their applications.

Financial aid is still available throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, even if students are taking courses online and regardless of immigration status. Applications opened on October 1st and the state financial aid priority deadline is March 2, 2021. The Cal Grant deadline for foster youth and students attending a California community college is September 2, 2021. So, if you, your child, your family, or a friend is pursuing a higher education, make sure to visit www.csac.ca.gov to apply for financial aid for the 2021-2022 academic year. If you and your family also need help filling out the application, you can visit <https://www.csac.ca.gov/cash-college> to register for a free Cash for College webinar where you can receive help in applying. Register online for **Steps to College 2021** at www.stepstocollegesac.org.

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