



NEWS RELEASE

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Outstanding, Local High School Counselor Honored with 2004 Arthur Marmaduke Award

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA — The California Student Aid Commission and EDFUND, its student loan auxiliary, announce today that Michelle Khayat of Valley High School, Sacramento, California is the recipient of the distinguished 2004-05 Arthur Marmaduke High School Counselor Award. Established by the Commission/JEDFUND in 1985, the annual award goes to an outstanding California high school counselor who demonstrates extraordinary counseling skills that result in exceptional numbers of graduating high school seniors who enroll in college. Khayat was selected from an outstanding field of candidates and will be honored tonight at Valley High in Sacramento.

Having provided over thirty years of dedicated counseling services to students, Khayat is credited with Valley High students gaining over \$1.6 million in financial aid and scholarships in 2004-05 and over \$6 million in financial aid and scholarships over the past five years. In addition, she was awarded a grant in which all 12th grade teachers and counselors were trained in the college financial aid application process that ultimately gets students money for college or vocational training, such as state and federal grants, scholarships, campus-based aid, subsidized loans and money through other sources.

“It is with heartfelt congratulations that the Commission applauds the remarkable contributions of Michelle Khayat to the students of Valley High School by encouraging them to remove money as a barrier to pursuing their dream of a college education,” said Diana Fuentes-Michel, executive director of the California Student Aid Commission. “With this award, the Commission recognizes the day-by-day, dedicated hard work of California high school counselors as they strive to assist students in accessing a college education.”

Ms. Khayat’s significant professional activities are extensive and include creating a 6-week teacher lesson plan for seniors outlining the financial aid process and the importance of filing for financial aid. She also develops and provides 11th and 12th grade students with a

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newsletter that includes all kinds of information: online college resources, information on SAT/ACT registration, California Community Colleges, private and technical schools, military options, as well as scholarship and financial aid information. Ms. Khayat coordinates 'parent nights' that provide families with college financial aid information, and she sponsors ongoing workshops on how to apply for financial aid for college.

"High school counselors are a vital link in helping students navigate various financial aid programs for college," said EDFUND President Becky Stilling. "We're delighted to congratulate Michelle Khayat on her outstanding activities that provide financial aid education to Valley High's teachers, students and families."

"Michelle is a dedicated advocate for our students," said Roger Stock, principal of Valley High. "She inspires students to set goals, while providing them with the tools they need to be successful. She just doesn't give up on students." One example of her dedication in encouraging students to apply for financial aid is the voluntary, tireless amount of time she spent over the 2004 winter break revamping her financial aid teacher lesson plan.

The annual Arthur Marmaduke High School Counselor Award was established by the Commission in 1985 to recognize one high school counselor each year who has demonstrated superior skills, dedication, and success in helping students seek and receive financial aid for college. Arthur Marmaduke served as the executive director of the Commission for 25 years. This award is made in honor of his dedication and commitment in helping students gain access to postsecondary education through the Commission's many grant, scholarship and loan programs.

Michelle Khayat was presented with a commemorative plaque and a \$1,500 monetary award at tonight's award ceremony. Visit www.csac.ca.gov and www.edfund.org for information on programs and services available through the Commission and its auxiliary, EDFUND.

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The California Student Aid Commission is the state's principal provider of intersegmental statewide grant aid to postsecondary students. Founded in 1955 as the California State Scholarship Commission, the Commission's primary programmatic responsibilities include operation of the Cal Grant program, which is distributing about \$760 million to California's college students during the 2004-2005 school year, administration of California's Chafee Grant Program, and several targeted state scholarship and loan forgiveness programs. Headquartered in Rancho Cordova, California, the 15-member Commission oversees the activities of its nonprofit student loan services auxiliary, EDFUND.

EDFUND, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, is the nation's second largest provider of student loan guarantee services under the Federal Family Education Loan Program. EDFUND offers students a wide range of financial aid and debt management information while supporting schools with advanced loan processing solutions and default prevention techniques. Operating as an auxiliary corporation of the California Student Aid Commission, EDFUND processes more than \$7.1 billion in student loans annually (including consolidation loans) and manages a portfolio of outstanding loans valued at \$21 billion. EDFUND is headquartered in Rancho Cordova, California with regional offices located throughout the nation.

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