



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Countdown to Cal Grant March 2 Deadline**

**High School Seniors, Recent Graduates to Get Help Applying for Cal Grants at Cash for College Workshops**

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA— The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces its "Countdown to Cal Grants" final push to encourage and remind students to apply for Cal Grants and other financial aid for education beyond high school.

"Cal Grants provide access for students who want to pursue their college, career or technical training, said the Commission's Executive Director, Diana Fuentes-Michel. It is important that students **opt-in** to pursue their college and career goals and not **opt-out** because they don't think they qualify for financial aid."

All high school seniors and recent graduates who qualify for a Cal Grant are guaranteed to receive one. To qualify, students must have financial need, at least a 2.0 GPA, and apply by the **March 2 Cal Grant application deadline in addition to meeting other requirements**. Cal Grants cover up to \$9,708 in tuition and fees and can also help pay for textbooks and living expenses. Applying for a Cal Grant will also ensure a student applies for a federal Pell Grant, which President Obama and the U.S. Congress just increased through federal stimulus legislation to a maximum amount of \$5,350 beginning the fall of 2009-10.

Students, recent graduates and families can get help applying for a Cal Grant and other financial aid at free local Cash for College workshops offered throughout the state through March 2. Cash for College workshops give hands-on, multilingual financial aid assistance to help students and their families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and a Cal Grant GPA verification form. More than 500 free Cash for College workshops are offered throughout the State from January 1 until March 2, with more than 100 remaining. Nearly 2,000 financial aid experts, outreach staff and trained community volunteers assist students and their families. High school seniors who attend a 2009 Cash for College workshop could also cash in on an extra \$1,000 scholarship—up to 500 scholarships in all —provided by College Access Foundation of California.

Students and families can find out more about Cash for College scholarships and locate a remaining workshop in their community at [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org).

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### Interview Opportunities

Cal Grant recipients, California Student Aid Commissioners and spokespeople in your local area are available for press interviews.

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