



## **Fast Blast**

**From the California Student Aid Commission**

**July 17, 2007**

### **From Diana Fuentes-Michel**

Executive Director, California Student Aid Commission

*In support of the Commission's ongoing goal of providing California's financial aid community with proactive and current updates, we are providing this update on programs and projects. Please share this with any interested person who may not have received this newsletter.*

### **CSAC Welcomes New Commissioners**

The Commission recently welcomed the appointments of two new Commissioners who participated in their first Commission meeting in June.

**Dr. Yasmin Delahoussaye**, vice president of Student Services at Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC), joined the California Student Aid Commission in April. She represents California Community Colleges and was appointed by the Assembly Speaker. Previous to her tenure as vice president, Dr. Delahoussaye served as a dean of student services for LAVC. She has also worked in administrative positions at Pierce College and as a high school teacher and counselor.

Dr. Delahoussaye has achieved expertise on the issues and needs of students seeking financial aid for education beyond high school through her decades of experience serving high school and California Community Colleges.

**Antonio Solorzano, Jr.**, of Montebello, was appointed by the Assembly Speaker to the California Student Aid Commission on June 14, 2007, to represent the general public. Commissioner Solorzano is currently the assistant principal of Theodore Roosevelt High School in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

He has worked in LAUSD as a teacher, counselor and administrator for more than 33 years. He is a past member of the Commission's Cal-SOAP Advisory Committee, and the Cal Grant B Application Committee, so is already intimately familiar with some key programs and activities under way at the Commission.

The Commission looks forward to Dr. Delahoussaye and Mr. Solorzano's contributions supporting Commission programs and issues.

### **National Guard Assumption Program of Loans for Education (NGAPLE)**

NGAPLE is a state-funded program that authorizes the Commission to make payments on student loans on behalf of persons enlisted in the California National Guard, State Military reserve or the Naval Militia. Enacted in September of 2003, no funds were authorized to support NGAPLE until AB 1801 was signed into law on June 30, 2006, authorizing 100 awards for the 2006-2007 award year.

On June 29, 2007, the Commission selected 100 NGAPLE applicants. Participants must provide four consecutive years of satisfactory service throughout the period that they participate in the program. After each year of eligible service, participants may be eligible for an annual payment. The Commission will assume up to \$11,000 of undergraduate loan debt.

Additional information on NGAPLE can be found at [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) link. Click on Commission Programs.

## **Renewal Cal Grant Reminder**

The Commission processed Cal Grant renewal applications for the 2007-2008 year. Schools will notice these renewal participants on their Cal Grant rosters and 186,000 students will be receiving their Cal Grant renewal notification letters.

It is important that Cal Grant participants provide the Commission with their correct school of attendance. Students can update demographic information and verify their Cal Grant school of attendance by following the WebGrants for Students link found on the Commission home page.

The "Unable to Determine" renewal eligibility letter name has been changed to "Pending Withdrawal". This letter is sent to students whose Cal Grant award could not be renewed due to non-receipt of the Commission 2006-2007 payment requests or request for leave of absence. This name change more adequately reflects the student's need to act on the letter.

## **Chafee Grant Funds for Foster Youth Available When State Budget Signed**

The Commission, through an interagency agreement with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), is now in its fifth year administering the Chafee Grant Program that provides financial aid for college for eligible foster youth. The Commission is pleased to announce that a multi-year Chafee Grant Program contract for three years has been approved. The Commission anticipates that 2007-2008 state and federal funding will be appropriated. If the Chafee Program is funded, awarding of Chafee grants will begin as soon as the state budget is signed.

## **"Make It In Scrubs" Campaign Tour Hits the Road**

The Commission and the California Wellness Foundation partnered to educate high school students, recent high school graduates and under-represented minority students about opportunities in California's allied health care system through the "Make It In Scrubs" public education media bus tour.

The tour, traveling to an East Los Angeles medical clinic and two educational institutions, emphasized the shortages of healthcare workers in California, employment opportunities and available financial aid for qualifying students.

Additional information on "Make It In Scrubs" can be found at [www.makeitinscrubs.com](http://www.makeitinscrubs.com).

## **IPA Update: Discussions to Resume at July 19 GAC Meeting**

Discussions will resume at the July 19 Grant Advisory Committee (GAC) meeting on the three issues remaining for the draft 2008-2009 Institutional Participation Agreement. These issues are Separate Accounts, High School Graduation Certification and California Residency Determination. The IPA agreement is the contract between CSAC and the institutions that administer the Cal Grant program.

Details for the GAC meeting can be found at the following link:

[www.csac.ca.gov/eventdetails.asp?pageFrom=events.asp&ID=484&retdate=7/11/7](http://www.csac.ca.gov/eventdetails.asp?pageFrom=events.asp&ID=484&retdate=7/11/7)

Revised issue papers are available at the following IPA link on our website:

[www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?ID=1282](http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?ID=1282) We encourage your review and continued feedback on these important topics. To provide input, please email Lori Nezhura at [lnzhura@csac.ca.gov](mailto:lnzhura@csac.ca.gov) or call her at (916) 526-7261.

We continue to work with GAC and stakeholders, and hope to share our recommendations with the Commission in September.

## **New Automated Grant Delivery Database System Seeks Work Group Participants**

Interested parties may still participate in an advisory work group to assist in the development of the Commission's real-time database system.

This automated system is intended to streamline grant administration processes and information sharing between Commission staff, financial aid offices, students and parents.

Panel participants will meet once a month via in-person meetings, teleconferencing or web conferencing. The first meeting of the advisory work group is scheduled for August.

If you are a financial aid officer, IT personnel, or vendor and interested in lending your expertise, please contact Yvonne Stewart-Buchen at [ystewart@csac.ca.gov](mailto:ystewart@csac.ca.gov).

### **Partnering for Continued Success**

On behalf of the Commission and Commission staff, I want to thank our financial aid partners for another successful Cal Grant financial aid season.

**Talk with us-** The Commission appreciates any comments or feedback you may have regarding the *Fast Blast*. Please forward your comments to [fastblast@csac.ca.gov](mailto:fastblast@csac.ca.gov). If this message reaches school staff who are not currently on the Commission's ListServ and wish to be added, they can log on to [csac.ca.gov](http://csac.ca.gov) and click on Links and CSAC List Services.



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