

FAST BLAST



OUR MISSION: "Make education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians."

DIANA FUENTES-MICHEL, *Executive Director, California Student Aid Commission*

April 11, 2008

2007-08 Cal Grant Institutional Participation Agreements to Expire

All 2007-08 Interim Institutional Participation Agreements (IPA) will expire on June 30, 2008. Institutions are required to have a current IPA on record with the Commission in order to participate in the Commission's Cal Grant Program and administer Cal Grant funds to eligible students. A signed IPA with supporting documentation must be received by the Commission no later than April 30, 2008.

Information about the 2008-09 Agreement can be found in *Special Alert, GSA 2008-09* issued by the Commission on February 27, 2008 at www.csac.ca.gov/secured/specialalerts/2008.asp. If you have additional questions, please contact the School Support Services Branch at www.schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov.

Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Deadline Fast Approaching

The deadline for high schools to submit nominations for the 2008-09 Federal Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program is fast approaching. Each high school may nominate two students from their school for this scholarship. Nomination packets were mailed to high school counselors in February. The postmark deadline for submitting the completed 2008-09 nomination packet is April 30, 2008.

Late Entitlement Cal Grant GPA Appeal Process

A Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and certified GPA Verification Form must have been received by the Commission from Entitlement Cal Grant applicants no later than the March 3 deadline to receive 2008-09 Entitlement Cal Grant consideration. Students who did not file an on-time certified GPA Verification Form due to circumstances beyond their control may appeal to the Commission for

consideration no later than May 16. Information on how to file an appeal can be found on the Commission's Web site at [Late GPA Verification Form](#).

2008-09 March Competitive Cal Grant Award Cycle

As mentioned in the March Fast Blast, the Commission will be processing March 2 Competitive Cal Grant awards later this month and will notify students via postcards. Stay tuned for specific processing dates in an upcoming Operations Memo.

Commission Urges Institutions to Nominate APLE Participants

The Commission has more than 5,000 unused 2007-08 Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE) allocations that can assist students pursuing a career in teaching. APLE provides up to \$19,000 in loan assumption benefits to participants for providing service in designated teacher shortage areas. For more information on the APLE program, visit www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=111 or e-mail FastBlast@csac.ca.gov.

"WebGrants for Students"—a Valuable Resource

WebGrants for Students allows students to manage their Cal Grant and/or Chafee account(s) online by letting them view updates, make school changes, make address changes and post leaves of absence on line 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Students may also find information on the status of their Cal Grant application. Please encourage your students to

take advantage of this valuable tool located at www.csac.ca.gov.

Commission Move Update

The Commission is currently occupying space in two facilities. The leases on these facilities will expire August 31, 2008 (headquarters) and April 30, 2009 (south building). The Commission has been working to identify a new facility to move to prior to the August lease expiring. The Commission has recently been approved to move to a new facility. Unfortunately, the new facility will not be ready for us by August. Therefore, the staff will move into the south building, which is currently shared with EDFUND. EDFUND is moving in July to their new facility, so Commission staff will move into the south building during the summer.

The Commission's street address will be 10834 International Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741. Our PO Box numbers will remain the same. However, as a result of both the Commission and EDFUND moving, the Commission can no longer share the EDFUND phone system. The Commission expects to have a new phone system installed in June. While the Commission's toll free numbers should remain the same, other Commission numbers will change. New phone numbers will be distributed when available. We will continue to keep you informed about our office relocation.

Legislative Reports Available

Annual Report to the Legislature on Loan Assumption Programs

The Commission submitted the *2006-07 Annual Report to the Legislature* on the participants and

performance of the five loan assumption programs administered by the Commission:

- Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE)
- State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education for Nursing Faculty (SNAPLE NF)
- State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education for Nurses in State Facilities (SNAPLE NSF)
- Graduate Assumption Program of Loans for Education (Grad APLE) and
- National Guard Assumption Program of Loans for Education (NGAPLE)

Annual Report to the Legislature on EDFUND

The Commission has also completed the *Annual Report to the Legislature on EDFUND* for Federal Fiscal Year October 1, 2006 - September 30, 2007. The report includes a description of the services provided by EDFUND, changes in the delivery of loans, program enhancements, the loan program annual budget, and the level of compensation of EDFUND managers and executives.

These reports, as well as other valuable reports produced by the Commission, can be viewed at www.csac.ca.gov. If you have any questions or need additional information about the *Annual Report to the Legislature on EDFUND*, please contact Ruben Romero, Research Branch Manager.



Your ideas and feedback are important to the Commission. Please forward your comments to Fastblast@csac.ca.gov