

FAST BLAST



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

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

May 9, 2008

2008-09 Competitive Cal Grant Award Cycle

The Commission will make Competitive Cal Grant award selections this month to assist students and schools in decisions regarding potential eligibility for a Competitive Cal Grant. Selected students will be notified of their potential award. These tentative awards will be placed in the "NA" section of the Cal Grant roster to prevent inadvertent processing of the awards by schools. The Commission will move the awards back into the "eligible" section of the Cal Grant roster should the award offers become actual.

The Governor's 2008-09 Budget proposed the discontinuation of the Competitive Cal Grant program for new students. The Governor's revision to the proposed Budget is expected to be released on May 14. We will keep you apprised of any changes in the Budget that may affect the Commission's programs.

2008-09 Cal Grant C Supplements

Cal Grant C Supplements will be sent to students who may be eligible for a vocational Cal Grant C program award. The students' status will be shown as "Auto-Accepted" for a Competitive Cal Grant A or B award. Vocational students for the 2008-09 school year are encouraged to complete the supplement in the event they cannot be paid Competitive Cal Grant program benefits.

2008-09 Transfer Entitlement Cal Grant Award Cycle

Transfer Entitlement Preliminary Award letters and 2008-09 Transfer Entitlement Cal Grant Certification Forms (G-6) will be sent to potentially eligible students who are transferring from a California Community College to a California baccalaureate degree granting institution for the 2008-09 school year. The G-6 forms are to be completed by the students and returned to the Commission. Upon receipt of the G-6 form, the Commission will either offer the student a Transfer Entitlement Cal Grant or send an ineligible letter.

During this processing time, students can view the status of their Cal Grant on WebGrants for Students. This site allows students to manage their Cal Grant and/or

Chafee account(s) online. Please continue to encourage your students to use this valuable resource located at www.csac.ca.gov.

Eligible Cal Grant School list now available on WebGrants for Students

The Commission has recently added a link on WebGrants for Students so visitors can locate participating Cal Grant institutions. This new feature helps students search by school name or locality. WebGrants for Students can be accessed at www.csac.ca.gov.

Cash for College Scholarships Announced in May Regional Ceremonies to be held in Los Angeles, San Diego, Bakersfield, Oakland and Sacramento

This month, the Cash for College program will award \$1,000 Cash for College incentive scholarships to more than 500 qualifying high school seniors. These scholarships are made possible through a partnership of the Commission, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation, and the College Access Foundation of California (Foundation). Since 2005, the Foundation has provided more than \$3.5 million in scholarships and program funding to Cash for College.

Scholarship recipients are randomly selected from a pool of high school seniors who attend a workshop, submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and a verified Cal Grant GPA by the March 2 Cal Grant deadline. In May and June, local organizers will recognize scholarship recipients at high school scholarship nights and regional Cash for College coalitions will host community-wide scholarship ceremonies to recognize the success of their students and the efforts of staff and volunteers.

This year's increase in the number of scholarships, up from 325 last year, has grown in conjunction with the 60 percent growth in the Cash for College program receiving more than 22,000 student evaluations this year. More than 500 workshops were conducted in 52 of 58 counties by approximately 100 organizations and six regional Cash for College coalitions comprised of high schools, community colleges, universities, and community groups. A special thank you to all of our community partners.

Highlights from the April 17, 2008 Commission meeting**Proposed Regulations**

Due to changes in current law, the Commission has adopted the following regulations. These regulations have been sent to the Office of Administrative Law for review and approval.

- **State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education for Nursing Faculty (SNAPLE NF)**
Current law expands the SNAPLE NF program to include graduates of baccalaureate and graduate degree programs. The Commission adopted regulations that would require SNAPLE NF applicants to be enrolled at least half time and maintain satisfactory academic progress during the academic year they apply in order to satisfy other program requirements. The revised regulations also establish a June 30 application deadline.
- **State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education for Nurses in State Facilities (SNAPLE NSF)**
Current law excludes individuals who are employed as registered nurses in state operated health care facilities from entering into the SNAPLE NSF program. The Commission adopted proposed regulations that reflect this exclusion and establishes a June 30 application deadline.

Legislation

The Commission adopted positions on the following bills in affirmation of its mission to make education beyond high school financially accessible to *all* Californians:

Support:

- SB 1158 (Scott) – Student Financial Aid: Assumption Program
- SB 1656 (Romero) – Assumption Program of Loans for Education
- SB 1219 (Cedillo) – Student Financial Aid: Member of the Armed Forces
- SB 1301 (Cedillo) – Student Financial Aid
- AB 2082 (Salas) – Student Financial Aid: Military Service
- AB 2083 (Nunez) – Student Financial Aid: Institutional Eligibility
- AB 2365 (De La Torre) – Cal Grant B Awards: Award Amounts

Support if Amended:

SB 1355 (Corbett) – Private Student Loans

This bill requires all public and private postsecondary institutions to clearly distinguish between federal and private loans in all financial aid awards. The Commission recommended amended language to the bill that would support information about rates, fees, and availability and benefits of federal loans over private loans.

To follow the status of each bill and obtain a copy of the bill, visit www.leginfo.ca.gov. Please contact Ann Shimasaki, Legislative Policy Consultant, at 916.526.8038 or ashimasaki@csac.ca.gov with any legislative inquiries you may have.

Appointments to Advisory Bodies

The Commissioners appointed Mr. Craig Anderson (Lender Representative) and Mr. Juan Gutierrez (Private-Non-Profit Institution Representative) to the Loan Advisory Council and Mr. Rick L. Diffenderfer (CCC Student Representative) and Ms. Coleetta M. McElroy (CASFAA Executive Council Representative) to the Grant Advisory Committee.

2007-08 Annual Statistics on Cal Grant Programs

The new 2007-08 *Facts at Your Fingertips* annual statistics on the Cal Grant High School Entitlement and Competitive programs publications are now available. These publications provide information on the segment of attendance, grade point average, and characteristics of the typical Cal Grant recipient.

These publications, as well as other valuable publications and reports produced by the Commission can be viewed at www.csac.ca.gov. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ruben Romero, Research Branch Manager, at 916.526.8237 or rromero@csac.ca.gov.

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