

# FAST BLAST



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

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

October 10, 2008

## A Note from the Executive Director

The Commission and its staff are all very pleased that funding for the Competitive Cal Grant program has been restored. Once the final Budget was signed, Commission staff began processing the Competitive Cal Grant applications. More than 104,000 financially eligible applicants were considered. This week, award notifications were mailed to the 11,500 students who were selected for a September 2<sup>nd</sup> Competitive award. Commission staff worked diligently to expedite processing of the awards. This was not an easy task given the staffing reductions the Commission is facing as a result of budget reductions. We thank you for your support and patience during these busy processing times. If you have any questions regarding the Cal Grant processing, you may contact the Commission's School Support Services line at 888.294.0153 or [schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov).

## Cal Grant C Awards

This week, the Commission completed processing the 2008-09 Cal Grant C award offers to eligible students. Cal Grant C awards provide up to \$546 a year for books, tools and equipment—and up to \$2592 more for tuition and fees for students attending a technical or career school.

## WebGrants

Information on award scoring for all Competitive Cal Grants and Cal Grant C can be viewed on the [WebGrants Student Award Detail screen](#). WebGrants rosters displaying all 2008-09 award recipients are now available for schools to begin reporting transactions for students.

## Chafee Checks Mailed to Schools

This week, Commission staff also completed processing and mailing 2,085 checks to schools for foster or former foster youth students who were eligible under the Chafee program. Schools can expect to receive the checks for Chafee within the next week.

## College Access Grant Awarded to Commission

In August, federal College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACGP) funding was awarded to California as part of a two-year grant totaling \$15 million. These funds will be administered by the Commission through its college access partnership programs, the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) and the California Cash for College Programs. This grant funding will help California increase awareness and availability of college and career opportunity information for underrepresented students and their parents; increase targeted student and parent knowledge of financial aid programs and opportunities to fund college and career technical education; and assist low-income students and their parents to complete the FAFSA.

California will fulfill its required match to CACGP federal funds, providing loan repayment benefits each year to teachers in high need geographic and subject shortage areas, and in low income/low performing schools.

## Fund Your Future Series Soon Available

The award-winning California Fund Your Future workbook and brochure will be available to order later this month. The Fund Your Future Counselors Guide will be available online as a PowerPoint file. While samples of the Fund Your Future Workbook were delivered in past years within the College Cash Box, the box will not be produced this year due to budget reductions. Several items that were provided in previous years will still be available for order. Stay tuned as we will let you know when the Fund Your Future workbooks and other materials are available for ordering, and when the Counselor's Guide has been posted for download on our web site at [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov).

*The Commission remains dedicated to keeping you apprised of any new information that may affect our programs. Please forward your ideas and comments to [Fastblast@csac.ca.gov](mailto:Fastblast@csac.ca.gov)*

