

FAST BLAST



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

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

February 10, 2010

High School Seniors Eligible for Scholarships at Cash for College Workshops

Cash for College workshops provide free hands-on assistance for students and their families filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) which is required to receive a Cal Grant.

More than 500 [Cash for College](#) workshops are being offered in 47 of 58 counties across California until the March 2 Cal Grant application deadline. Students can visit www.calgrants.org/workshops to find remaining Cash for College workshops in their area.

High school seniors who attend a Cash for College workshop, complete an exit survey, and successfully fill out the FAFSA and Cal Grant GPA Verification form qualify for their chance to receive scholarships from \$1,000 to \$4,000, depending on the workshop location. California Cash for College is participating in a national scholarship study which provides additional scholarship resources in four regions of the state. To learn more about Performance Based Scholarships (PBS), of up to \$4,000, visit the [PBS page](#) at the calgrants.org website. The \$1,000 Cash for College incentive scholarship is not available in Performance Based Scholarship Study Regions, but continues to be offered at workshops in non-study regions where Cash for College workshops are held.

Cash for College Now on Facebook

Join Facebook and link to the [Fan page](#) to become a fan of [Cash for College](#). Reminders about the Cal Grant deadline and other financial aid related information that students will want to know will be posted.

Call Center hours extended

In an effort to assist as many students as possible, the Commission is pleased to inform you that we extended our Customer Relations Branch phone hours on **February 1, 2010 through Monday, March 2, 2010.**

With the exception of furlough Fridays and Monday February 15, 2010, President's Day, the phone hours will be from 8:00 a.m. - 4:55 p.m. We request your assistance in helping us get the word out to students and thank you in advance for your help with this outreach effort.

2010-11 Cal Grant Entitlement Award Notifications

The Commission ran the initial 2010-11 High School Entitlement (E1) award cycle this past weekend. Students may be notified of their award via email if an email address is on file in WebGrants for Students or by regular mail. The California Student Aid Report will provide instructions on how to create a WebGrants for Students account, view their award amounts and process a school change. The E1 award cycle will continue to run on a weekly basis.

California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program 45-day Proposed Regulations Public Comment Period

The 45-day public comment period for the [California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program \(CNG EAAP\)](#) will expire on March 1, 2010. Interested parties may comment on the rulemaking process that will make the [Emergency Regulations Proposed Text](#) permanent.

CNG EAAP is a state-funded program designed to provide an educational incentive to improve the skills, competencies and abilities of active members in the California National Guard, the State Military Reserve, or the Naval Militia.

Additional information about the emergency regulations can be located in [Special Alert, GSA 2010-02 dated January 14, 2009](#).

Chafee Updates

2009-10 New Chafee Foster Youth Grant Program Processing Suspended

As a result of the recent 12 percent reduction in the 2009-10 Chafee funding, further processing of new 2009-10 Chafee awards has been suspended until further notice. Institutions are encouraged to continue to process the 2009-10 Financial Need Analysis Report for eligible applicants should additional awards become available.

To date, the Commission has offered 2,609 students Chafee awards for the 2009-10 academic year. Of these awards, 1,297 were new and 1,312 were renewals.

2010-11 Chafee Foster Youth Application

The 2010-11 Chafee Foster Youth Grant Online Application is now available on the Commission's Web site at www.chafee.csac.ca.gov. Students who prefer to print and submit a paper version can access the paper application at [Chafee Grant Application \(paper version\)](#).

Detailed Chafee updated information can be located in [Special Alert GSA 2010-01](#) dated January 12, 2010.

High School Counselors Marmaduke Award Nominations

The Commission is accepting nominations for the 25th Annual Arthur Marmaduke High School Counselor Award. A special invitation from Executive Director, Diana Fuentes-Michel, has been posted on our Web site at www.csac.ca.gov.

The Marmaduke Award recognizes one high school counselor each year who has demonstrated superior skills, dedication and commitment in helping students gain access to postsecondary education through the Commission's grant, scholarship and loan assumption programs. [Nomination forms](#) must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, March 30, 2010.

The Marmaduke Award was established by the Commission in 1985 in honor of the late Arthur Marmaduke for his efforts in helping students gain access to postsecondary education through the Commission's programs. Arthur Marmaduke served as the Executive Director of the Commission for 25 years.

Sacramento Television News Station Hosts March 2 Cal Grant Call-in Day

On January 13, 2010, Commission Executive Director Diana Fuentes-Michel, Commission staff and external financial aid outreach partners participated in the 3rd annual KCRA 3, Cal Grant/ Cash for College Call-In Day.

This event traditionally launches the beginning of the January 1 – March 2 Cal Grant application period and denotes a significant financial and public service contribution from KCRA 3 to our mission.

Prior to the event, KCRA produced segments which publicized call-in details and highlighted the application period. Taped interviews with Commissioner's Lynne de Bie and Fred Wood, Assemblymember Allyson Huber and Executive Director Michel were also featured on various news broadcasts in advance of the air date.

Representatives manned ten phone and e-mail stations and responded to more than 1,500 requests for information from 4:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

During the show, numerous live interviews were conducted at the phone bank site. Executive Director Fuentes-Michel provided multiple interviews throughout the course of the day. Visiting honored guests Commissioner Fred Wood, Senator Dave Cox, and Assemblymembers Roger Niello, Allyson Huber and Mariko Yamada also spoke to the value of the program.

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.

