

# FAST BLAST

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

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



July 15, 2010

## Message from Executive Director, Diana Fuentes-Michel

### Budget Update:

- The Joint Legislative Budget Conference Committee is still reviewing the 2010-11 Budget.
- The CSU Board of Trustees adopted a 5 percent undergraduate fee increase. The Commission adjusted the Cal Grant awards to conform to the fee increase.

## Additional funds authorized for 2009-10 Cal Grant disbursements

2009-10 Cal Grant disbursements have been on hold since April 12, 2010 due to insufficient funding authority. Additional 2009-10 Cal Grant funding was authorized to allow the Commission to process payment requests submitted from April 12—June 17, 2010. Payment requests submitted after June 17 will be processed as additional funds become available. Schools will begin receiving Cal Grant disbursements during the week of July 6, 2010.

Detailed information on 2009-10 Cal Grant payment processing can be located in Special Alert [GSA 2010-23](#) dated July 2, 2010. If you have further any questions regarding 2009-10 Cal Grant disbursements, please contact School Support Services at 888.294.0153 or [schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov).

We will keep you apprised of updates as they become available.

## Federal Direct Loan Program

Loan origination through the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program ceased as of June 30, 2010. All new student loans are now being made through the federal Direct Loan program.

Reports from the U.S. Department of Education indicate that the majority of eligible institutions are currently participating in the Direct Loan (DL) program. The total number of institutions participating is now 3,744 or 73

percent. The remaining 27 percent, or 1,340 institutions, are currently in the transition process. Direct Loan transition reports are available on the Federal Student Aid Data Center.

The U.S. Department of Education produces an online newsletter titled, Direct Loan Source, which provides Direct Loan updates on a monthly basis. The newsletter with information about upcoming training offered by the Department as well as contact information for the Department can be found at <http://www.direct.ed.gov/>. Direct Loan program information for parents and students can be found at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov).

Students, families, and schools may still visit the EdFund Web site, [www.edfund.org](http://www.edfund.org), for various financial aid tools and information.

## 2011-12 Fund Your Future coming this Fall

The Commission is working in concert with EdFund to develop the *2011-12 Fund Your Future (FYF)* publication series. The series includes a printed FYF workbook and brochure produced in English and Spanish. The *2011-12 Counselors' Guide* will also be available online as a PowerPoint presentation. High school counselors and financial aid administrators may use and modify the guide to suit their efforts to reach out to students and parents about financial aid opportunities.

## Cal Grant C Supplement application deadline extended

The application deadline for students to submit the [Cal Grant C Supplement Form](#) has been

extended to **July 16, 2010**. Students who qualify can receive \$3,168 for technical and career education. A *Cal Grant C Status Take Action* reminder postcard was sent to students to encourage them to complete the supplement by



the **July 16, 2010** deadline. We appreciate your assistance in encouraging students to apply.

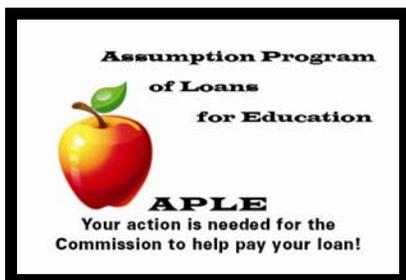
Students can monitor their award status on [www.WebGrants4students.org](http://www.WebGrants4students.org).

### 2010-11 Chafee

The Commission has notified 861 2010-11 Chafee Grant participants of their award eligibility. We are pleased to note that this is the earliest award notification to date. We will continue to process additional awards on a weekly basis.

### APLE Postcard Reminders Mailed

Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE) postcards (shown on page 2) were sent to qualifying students as a reminder to submit their 2010-11 APLE application by the **September 30, 2010** priority deadline. Detailed information about the APLE application process can be located in Operations Memo [GOM 2010-13](#). We appreciate your continued outreach efforts to help spread the word about the APLE program to California's future teachers.



### Legislative Corner

At their June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Commission took a position of support on each of the following four bills:

#### **AB 1997 (Portantino) Community Colleges: student financial aid: pilot program**

Establishes a voluntary pilot program to increase student participation in state and federal financial aid programs.

#### **AB 2086 (Coto) Cal Grant Program: qualifying institutions: publication of license examination passage rates**

Requires Cal Grant participating institutions to provide a link on their admissions Web site or in student program materials to the state licensing or regulatory agency where licensing passage rates for their programs is electronically available.

#### **SB 957 (Price) Student financial aid: Cal Grant C awards**

Proposes that Cal Grant C applicants pursuing programs that meet two of the three following criteria receive

selection priority: high-need, high-growth, high-wage or high-projection fields. **Note: This bill supplements the current selection criteria; it does not supplant it. Students pursuing all eligible vocational programs will still receive Cal Grant C award consideration.**

#### **SB 1460 (Cedillo) Student financial aid: eligibility: California Dream Act of 2010**

Allows students who are exempt from paying nonresident tuition at California public institutions (AB 540) to apply for and receive private, institutional, and state financial aid.

**UPDATE: SB 1382 (Committee on Veterans Affairs) Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program: methodology** is enrolled and awaiting the governor's signature. This bill eliminates the requirement in law that the Commission calculate new Cal Grant need according to the methodology in place during the 2001-02 academic year. This will conform Cal Grant practice to Title IV financial aid practice where veterans' education benefits are concerned. This bill makes no other substantive changes. If enacted, this bill will take effect January 1, 2011. Information regarding the implementation of this bill will be provided in the future.

### Sign-up for the Commission's ListServ

Students, parents, financial aid professionals, and the general public can sign-up to receive valuable up-to-date information on the Commission and its programs by joining the CSAC ListServ at [www.csac.ca.gov/subscription.asp](http://www.csac.ca.gov/subscription.asp).

### California Student Aid Commission Addresses:

#### **Our mailing address:**

California Student Aid Commission  
Attn: (Insert Name of Branch)  
P.O. Box 419026  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9026

#### **For UPS or overnight delivery only:**

California Student Aid Commission  
Attn: (Insert Name of Branch)  
10834 International Drive, Suite 100  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

#### **\*Please direct mail to one of the following branches:**

- Executive Office
- Administration & External Affairs
- Program Administration & Services
- Information Technology Services
- Federal Policy & Programs
- Legal & Audit Services

