

FAST BLAST



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

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

December 13, 2010

Message from Executive Director, Diana Fuentes-Michel

I am pleased to announce that Sacramento NBC affiliate KCRA 3 will again team up with the Commission to host the 4th Annual Cal Grant call-in day on January 19, 2011 from 4:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. This televised event launches the beginning of the January 1 – March 2 Cal Grant application period.

Each year Commission representatives, Legislators, and local volunteers provide valuable information about Cash for College workshops, Cal Grant eligibility, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), GPA processing, and more. Last year, more than 1,500 students and parents took advantage of this free public service event.

2009-10 Cal Grant Funds; Reconciliation and Year End Process

2009-10 Pending Payments

The Department of Finance has not authorized additional funding for the disbursement of 2009-10 Cal Grant payments since June 17, 2010. Unfunded 2009-10 Cal Grant requests will be submitted to the State Controller's Office when additional funding for the 2009-10 year has been authorized. We encourage schools to continue to post payments in WebGrants and track all pending disbursements.

2009-10 Reconciliation

2009-10 roster transactions must be completed by noon on Thursday, December 30, 2010. Payment requests or adjustments must be completed on the roster in WebGrants before noon on December 30, 2010.

Please contact the Commission's School Support services line at 888.294.0153 if you are unable to post a payment.

Schools are encouraged to complete their 2009-10 reconciliation early.

Invoices will be mailed during the second week of January to all institutions with remaining 2009-10 Cal Grant balances. Interest earned on Cal Grant funds for the 2010 calendar year is due to the Commission by March 2011.

Additional information about Cal Grant funding, reconciliation or interest earned payments can be found in Special Alert GSA 2010-36. If you have questions, contact Justin Watkins at 916.464.6425 or jwatkins@csac.ca.gov or Janice Wright at 916.464.6420 or jwright@csac.ca.gov.

Student Expense Budgets and Income and Asset Ceilings

Student Expense Budgets and the Income and Asset Ceilings for the 2011-12 academic year are now available. Campus budget information from the College Cost Estimate Forms are used when awarding Cal Grants. Forms are due to the Commission by January 21, 2011.

A sample of statewide Student Expense Budgets which include standardized allowances for food, housing, books, supplies, transportation, and personal/miscellaneous expenses for a nine-month academic year can be accessed in Operations Memo GOM 2010-26.

**Renewal applications for the
California National Guard Education
Assistance Award Program will be available in
January 2011.**

Update Capability Now Available on the 2011-12 WebGrants Cost Estimate Screen

The Commission uses cost estimate information provided by participating Cal Grant institutions to determine the financial need and award amounts for Cal Grant participants. Outdated information could disadvantage some students in the determination of their financial need.

Updates to College cost estimate information must be posted to the 2011-12 WebGrants Cost Estimate Screen no later than Friday, January 21, 2011.

The 2010-11 College Cost Information will be used for schools that do not update their institution's cost data by January 21, 2011. We encourage institutions to utilize WebGrants when submitting information. This will allow students the maximum possible award. Adobe PDF versions of the form can be located at www.csac.ca.gov/pubs. The form must be received at the Commission by January 21, 2011.

2011 Cash for College Workshop Registration

Registration for 2011 Cash for College workshops has begun. More than 400 workshops have already registered. To register, please visit www.calgrants.org.

A listing of registered workshops can be found at www.calgrants.org/workshops. Students can join us on [Facebook](#) and receive workshop updates and reminders in addition to important financial aid information.

The Commission is excited to announce Cash for College will continue to offer \$1,000 incentive scholarships per qualifying workshop. The 2011 Cash for College scholarships are available through a new partnership between the Commission and ECMC, designated by the federal government to assume responsibility for the California Federal Family Educational Loan Program (FFEL) Program.

The scholarship program will continue to require high school seniors to attend a Cash for College workshop, complete an exit survey, and submit the FAFSA and a verified Cal Grant GPA by the March 2 application deadline. AB 540 eligible high school seniors attending workshops are also eligible to participate in the scholarship program. If selected, AB 540 students are required to submit a copy of their AB 540 Affidavit.

2011-12 GPA Submission

Colleges and high schools can now submit grade point averages (GPA) to the Commission for the 2011-12 year.

GPA training to assist schools with the submission process is available. To register for training, go to www.csac.ca.gov.

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*
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