

FAST BLAST

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM
THE CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION



OUR MISSION: "MAKE EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL FINANCIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO ALL CALIFORNIANS"

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA

JUNE 2011



**A MESSAGE FROM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
DIANA FUENTES-MICHEL**

As you are probably aware, the June 15th constitutional budget deadline is nearing. At this time, Cal Grant funding remains intact for fiscal year 2011-12.

Republicans and Democrats continue to remain divided over a variety of issues, including the extension of higher sales and vehicle tax rates. Other topics under consideration are a spending cap, pension cuts and the future of redevelopment agencies. Staff is attending all relevant hearings and we will provide updates on our website as the process develops.

In addition, Commission staff is continuing to modify our grant delivery system to incorporate the Cal Grant eligibility changes required by SB 70. Our Program Administration and Customer Support branches are busy addressing questions from students and institutions specific to this legislation.

Information on SB70 can be easily accessed on the Commission website by clicking on the icon located in the upper left side of the home page. This section contains all communications related to the implementation process, including Special Alerts and "Frequently Asked Questions."

As the summer break begins, the Commission extends our gratitude for your hard work and dedication to your students during these challenging economic times.

Enjoy a well deserved vacation!

Diana Fuentes-Michel
1975-1979 Cal Grant B Recipient



Cash for College Awards 500 Incentive Scholarships

Five hundred California high school seniors in more than 460 high schools in the state completed their year with additional \$1,000 incentive scholarships to help make education beyond high school possible this fall. The purpose of the scholarship is to make sure students complete the entire process to maximize state and federal financial aid.

The Cash for College \$1,000 incentive scholarship program was offered once again at qualifying Cash for College workshops to seniors who attended a workshop, completed an exit survey and submitted a FAFSA and verified Cal Grant GPA by the March 2 deadline. Seniors attending workshops, but not eligible to apply for state or federal financial aid, could also participate in the scholarship program. Cash for College scholarships are funded through ECMC Foundation in partnership with the California Student Aid Commission and co-administered with the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

Cash for College workshop organizers can locate scholarship recipient names, scholarship awarding packet, and the required student claiming information within the Cash for College accounts at www.calgrants.org/workshopreg.

Scholarship recipients may claim scholarships at the claim site at www.calgrants.org/cashforcollegescholarship until the August 3 claiming deadline. Students must claim their award at the website which will request their school of attendance and other information necessary to award their scholarship. Once students have enrolled for Fall classes, they must send in a valid Fall class schedule. Once approved, scholarship payments are made to the qualifying school of attendance.

For more information, visit www.calgrants.org.



KEEPING UP WITH THE COMMISSION

To provide timely operational updates to our constituents, the Commission utilizes electronic technology in the forms of Operations Memos, Policy Bulletins and Special Alerts. Following are links to the most recent communications. To begin receiving these publications, sign up through CSAC List Services. From the CSAC home page, select "[Links](#)" and then select "[CSAC List Services](#)."

Operation Memo's (Grant Operations Memo/GOM):

[GOM 2011-18](#), issued 6/9, provided an update on the 2010-11 Cal Grant summer term advance and the options for summer payments on the WebGrants roster.

[GOM 2011-17](#), issued 6/1, informed Administrators of the high school graduation confirmation processes in place for new Entitlement Cal Grant participants.

[GOM 2011-16](#), issued 6/1, encouraged counselors to assist students in meeting the Cal Grant high school graduation confirmation requirement for new Entitlement Cal Grant awardees.

[GOM 2011-15](#), issued 5/27, provided an update on the status of the Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE).

[GOM 2011-14](#), issued 5/18, updated schools on the following 2011-12 Cal Grant award processes: California Community College Transfer Entitlement Cal Grant Awards, Competitive Cal Grant A and B Awards and Cal Grant C Grant Rosters.

[GOM 2011-13](#), issued 5/18, announced webinar training for a new automated payment process available through WebGrants for the California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (CNG EAAP).

[GOM 2011-12](#), issued 5/17, provides an update of the Cal Grant operational changes affecting institutions due to the provisions of Senate Bill (SB) 70.

Special Alerts (Grant Special Alert/GSA):

[GSA 2011-23](#), issued 6/1, provided a reminder of the June 30, 2011, submission deadline for the "Grant Delivery System WebGrants Information Security and Confidentiality Agreement" and the "Grant Delivery System WebGrants System Administrator's Access Request Form".

[GSA 2011-22](#), issued 5/31, announced the beginning of the Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE) for Credentialed Teachers 2011-12 application period.

[GSA 2011-21](#), issued 5/25, provided an update on the status of delayed 2010-11 Cal Grant payments.

SUMMER TERM ADVANCE UPDATE

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) will not be initiating the 2010-11 summer term advance. However, the summer term on the payment roster in WebGrants became available on Friday, June 10, 2011, to allow institutions to post summer payments. Posted summer payments will be included in the weekly reconciliation and supplemental payment process.

Schools can manually add a summer term on the roster by clicking the "add summer term" drop-down under the **summer term information** section and then hit the "SAVE" button on the WebGrants roster. The summer term will immediately become active on the roster. However, if the transaction rejects, the reject reason will be displayed in red. A user can delete the pending transaction, fix the problem, add the summer term again, and resubmit.

As in the past year, the Commission has discontinued the "Summer Payment Request Form for Students" (G-14) as schools now have the ability to add summer terms. The G-14 link on our homepage has been disabled, but a message states, "*Summer Cal Grants are available for current recipients, but all requests must be made through your financial aid office.*" The Commission feels this is a necessary step since financial aid staff will determine and evaluate the impact of a summer Cal Grant to the student's overall financial aid package.

If you have any questions, please contact the School Support Services Branch at (888) 294.0153 or at schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov.

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