



## **Fast Blast**

**From the California Student Aid Commission**

**May 10, 2007**

### **From Diana Fuentes-Michel**

Executive Director, California Student Aid Commission

*In support of the Commission's ongoing goal of providing California's financial aid community with proactive and current updates, we are providing this update on programs and projects. Please share this with any interested person who may not have received this newsletter.*

### **Commission Staff to host IPA workshop May 24 to fine tune IPA**

Commission staff will host a workshop May 24 in Sacramento to continue to work with stakeholders on fine-tuning approaches to California residency, high school graduation confirmation and maintenance of Cal Grant funds in separate accounts for inclusion in the 2008-09 Institutional Participation Agreement (IPA). Commissioners at their April meeting voted to approve the current IPA, with four addenda, for the current school year, but withheld voting on some major changes so staff, the Grant Advisory Committee and other interested parties could continue to refine processes in administering Cal Grants. Look for more specific information shortly on this important workshop, which will feature breakout sessions to allow staff and interested parties an opportunity to roll up their sleeves and collaborate on final approaches.

Teleconferencing will be available for those who wish to participate remotely. Commissioners would like to review the changes in September, in hopes of having a new IPA in place by July 1, 2008. To check out the latest news and to review current issues before the group, please visit

<http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?ID=1282>

### **California High School Graduation Certification Form available**

Members of the California Student Aid Commission in April reaffirmed the usage of the *California High School Graduation Certification Form*, G-8, for use by schools for the 2007-08 academic year. The G-8 is intended as a post-high school graduation self-certification of an Entitlement Cal Grant recipient's graduation from high school. The form, or other authoritative proof of high school graduation, must be in possession by the college where the student will be paid prior to the disbursement of any Cal Grant funds. Graduation from high school, or the equivalent, is a requirement for participation in the Cal Grant Entitlement award program.

Many schools already require upon admission that students be high school graduates, and in those cases a completed G-8 from each student is not necessary if the school has proof of graduation on file for each new Entitlement Cal Grant recipient. For those schools that do not require high school graduation for admission, each school must have a completed G-8 form on file for each Entitlement recipient if proof of graduation is not on hand.

### **G-8 for recipients and schools, and on the Web site**

Early in June, the Commission will mail a G-8 and instructions to each student who is awarded an Entitlement Cal Grant for the 2007-08 academic year.

### **Policy Bulletin coming in late May!**

In late May, a *Policy Bulletin* containing details about the G-8 process and requirements will be distributed to schools along with a sample G-8. Included will be Commission contact information to assist school staff

who may have questions about the form or process. Additionally, staff will post the form on the Commission's Web site, under Publications, where it can be downloaded and printed by schools or students.

### **National Guard Assumption Program of Loans for Education (NGAPLE) application period open through June**

If you have students who are members, or who are considering becoming members of the California National Guard, State Military Reserve, or Naval Militia, the Commission administers a loan assumption program for them. The NGAPLE provides an incentive for California residents to enlist or reenlist in the military services listed above. The Program provides repayment of student loans for eligible students who are attending a California college or career/vocational school or have completed an undergraduate degree or a career/vocational program at a participating school.

The NGAPLE program will pay up to \$11,000 of outstanding student loans for four consecutive years of military service.

Be sure to inform students of this opportunity. Applications for the NGAPLE are available in mid May. Awards will be made by June 30, 2007. The program is scheduled to end July 1, 2007, if new state legislation is not passed to extend it.

If you have any questions regarding the NGAPLE, staff and counselors can contact Clarita Cortez at 916-526-7953. If your students have questions, please have them contact the Commission's Specialized Programs staff by calling the Commission toll-free at 1-888-224-7268, option 3.

### **APLE accepting nominations from counselors**

The Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE) is a competitive teacher incentive program designed to encourage outstanding students to become California teachers in subject areas where a critical teacher shortage has been identified or in designated schools meeting specific established criteria.

APLE applications for 2006-07 are available until June 30, 2007. Please encourage your students to submit APLE 2006-07 applications to campus APLE coordinators. Coordinators then nominate students to the Commission.

*APLE materials-* If you need APLE Applications, Instructions or a Counselor's Guide, log on to the Commission's Web site at [csac.ca.gov](http://csac.ca.gov) and click on Commission Programs, and APLE Applications and Forms.

Be sure to take advantage of other Commission APLE materials that can be ordered from the Shipping Center. Log on the Commission Web site, click on Publications, then click on G-411 Forms, Publications and Videos Order Form. You will find APLE brochures, posters, bookmarks, and videos in English and Spanish. You will find ordering instructions on the Order Form.

### **Child Development Program applications available**

Please share the news! The 2007-08 Child Development Grant Program applications are available at college financial aid offices and in campus education departments. The deadline to apply is June 29, 2007. The program is designed for students who are attending a California Community College or four-year institution, and pursuing a Child Development Permit to teach or supervise in a licensed California children's center.

Selected recipients attending a California Community College are eligible to receive up to \$1,000 each academic year for two years; recipients attending a four-year institution are eligible to receive up to \$2,000 each academic year for two years making them eligible for a maximum of \$6,000. Students must maintain half-time enrollment and satisfactory academic progress. For every year that students receive the Grant they must agree to teach or supervise in a licensed California children's center.

If your students have questions, they may call Commission Specialized Program staff toll-free at 1-888-224-7268, option #3.

### **Cal Grant campaign off to an early jump-start!**

The Commission voted April 19 to provide early funding for the 2007-08 Cal Grant Public Awareness Campaign. The funding change will allow the Commission to begin to develop new College Cash Box materials and distribute them in September 2007, in time for financial aid nights held in the fall by many schools.

The requested funding extension is in response to suggestions from the Commission's Outreach Committee and stakeholders that the Commission expand the Campaign to a year-round program. The early start will also allow the Commission to broaden the scope and reach of many other campaign projects, including the television and radio advertising, grassroots outreach to faith-based and community-based organizations, and much more.

**Talk with us-** The Commission appreciates any comments or feedback you may have regarding the *Fast Blast*. Please forward your comments to [fastblast@csac.ca.gov](mailto:fastblast@csac.ca.gov). If this message reaches school staff who are not currently on the Commission's ListServ and wish to be added, they can log on to [csac.ca.gov](http://csac.ca.gov) and click on Links and CSAC List Services.

On behalf of the Commission and Commission staff, I want to thank our financial aid partners for another successful Cal Grant financial aid season.



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