



**Executive Director's Report
September, 2013**

Dear Commissioners,

Fall is almost here and the Commission operations staff has been busy finalizing decisions on Cal Grant appeals and corrections to students enrolling in college or career education for the 2013-14 academic year. Our call center has been active helping students answering eligibility questions and resolving award issues. Programmatic planning for the upcoming application cycle is in full swing as Commission staff has been developing the new Phase II application for the California Dream Act participants and planning for the implementation of the new Middle Class Scholarship Program next spring.

The news about the federal government's approval of the Commission's waiver for the College Access Challenge Grant award was welcomed and long-awaited. Unfortunately, even though the Commission staff worked hard to avoid the layoff process for our Cal-SOAP project staff, some did receive layoff notices and experienced anxiety about the potential loss of closure of their project. We received word after the award announcement that the funding award period would be delayed six weeks. This agenda will include updated information on the grant award and request your approval of grant funds to be allocated according to the State Budget Act.

The Commission staff has also been consulting and meeting with campus and system wide financial aid officers about issues impacting the awarding of the Cal Grant Competitive Program. You will hear an item on staff recommendations regarding how we can improve the utilization rate for the Cal Grant competitive awards during our meeting. We are looking forward to this discussion in the Commission's Strategic Policy and Planning Committee.

In addition, the Commission staff will be bringing forward a final report on the 2013-14 State Budget. For the first time in a long time, the Commission's management team has the ability to plan for a stable budget. This budget also represents the first operational budget not supported by auxiliary funds or through transitional support by the Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC). In mid-August, an all managers planning meeting was held to identify workload priorities within the General Fund budget enacted by the Governor and the Legislature. Commission staff will be bringing forward budget change proposals for the 2014-15 fiscal year at our September meeting.

And finally, we will be discussing a number of agenda items that follow your direction at the June planning session. It has been a fruitful time of reflection and planning this summer, an opportunity that the Commission staff has not had in the past few years with the transition of the loan program and the work furloughs that have now come to an end.

COMMISSION PROGRAMS UPDATE

Here below is an update of the Commission's recent activities:

❖ Administration & External Affairs Division Update

- Fiscal Office

The Accounting staff successfully completed the year-end process for all of our funds and submitted our financial statements to the State Controller's Office on time. They also transitioned the EdFund auxiliary bank account from the Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) and have taken over responsibility for managing the account.

With the enactment of the 2013-14 budget, the Budget staff have been busy with budget drills from the Department of Finance to make adjustments to the budget for items such as, the changes in retirement and health benefit rates. They have also begun working on various documents in preparation for the 2014-15 budget.

- Cash For College

Cash for College (CFC) administered two scholarship programs in 2013 in partnership with the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation. The CFC \$1,000 incentive scholarships are funded through the Commission's partnership with ECMC, and the Performance Based Scholarship Sustainability Program scholarships are funded by College Access Foundation of California. Over the last three years, ECMC has provided \$1.5 million in scholarships to help California students pursue education beyond high school, all the while expanding their access to state and federal financial aid. In 2014, it is expected that ECMC will provide \$500,000 in scholarship program funding.

Cash for College Incentive Program \$1,000 scholarships were awarded in early May. All scholarships have been claimed. While claiming was completed by August 2nd, students are still verifying enrollment to fully qualify for their scholarship. We expect to fully use the \$500,000 in scholarship and program funding.

This year, the Cash for College Advisory Committee met in a virtual setting to review Cash for College participant FAFSA and Cal Grant submission and completion data, and to set stretch goals for the upcoming year. Ongoing monthly meetings will be used to confirm outreach activities to meet the new statewide goals.

Cash for College is also at work on a new 1 page infographic summary of yearly workshop results and recent trends in the area of attendance and performance for each workshop and region. The new tool will be available for organizers and regions early this fall.

As part of the Commission's Get Schooled Partnership, Cash for College regional lead organizations and organizers have been invited to recruit schools into the California College Campaign and support them throughout the duration. Cash for College ecosystem will be integral to the campaign's FAFSA, Dream Act and Cal Grant application focus.

❖ Strategic Policy, Media and Communications Division Update

- Marmaduke Award Ceremony

The Commission's 27th Annual Arthur S. Marmaduke Award ceremony was held here at the Commission in the Boardroom. More than 50 guests joined Commissioner Hal Geiogue, representatives from the State Senate and the Marmaduke family, Assembly Member Ken Cooley, Commission staff and community partners, to honor this year's winner, Mr. Warren Popp. Mr. Popp, who is 80 years young, has been counseling high school students toward college since 1957. Dozens of Mr. Popp's family members attended the event. Mr. Popp's acceptance speech can be found on the Commission's YouTube Channel at the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dNAgaN2o2w>

- KVIE PBS-TV Production

The Commission was the featured guest on the Emmy Award winning, weekly television program, Studio Sacramento on the Capitol City's Public Broadcasting Station. This series is widely viewed by state legislators and Capitol insiders. Known for featuring agenda-setting guests including Congress members, members of the State Senate and Assembly, and statewide elected officials, the show is respected for its insight and depth of conversation about topics and issues of importance to the Capitol region. The Commission's episode, entitled "Students and Higher Education," featured a conversation about financial aid and the California Dream Act. The program was broadcast in both English and Spanish. The show can be viewed in its entirety at the following link:

<http://vids.kvie.org/video/2365063303/>

The show is also available on the Commission's website, YouTube Channel and Vimeo Channel. Links to the episode were also distributed to the staff, press, and the Commission's 200+ Twitter followers and 600+ Facebook followers.

- GetSchooled

The Commission's partnership with Get Schooled, is called the California College Campaign. This partnership is dedicated to using media, technology and popular culture to motivate young people to improve high school graduation rates, increase access to college financial aid, and empower students to graduate, apply to, and succeed in college. The California College Campaign project is coordinating with the Commission's current outreach programs, partners, and activities.

The Commission has held conference calls with Cal-SOAP Project Directors and Cash for College Regional Coordinators. The campaign launched statewide using an email distribution to our existing collaborative partners, targeting 15 California counties that are home to California's highest poverty/lowest income African American high school students. We are seeking 60 high schools to participate in the Campaign. In just one week more than 25 high school campus representatives had responded. The registration period continues to remain open until September 1st. A brief video about the GetSchooled Challenges can be viewed at the following link:

<https://getschooled.com/about/challenges>.

❖ **Legal & Audit Services Division**

As of June 30, 2013, the Operating Agreement between the Commission, EdFund and ECMC has concluded with the full transition of the Commission's federal loan portfolio to ECMC. There were a few items which, for reasons beyond the control of both the Commission and ECMC, were not able to be concluded prior to June 30th. These last items were completed September 4, 2013.

The Commission has received the judgment in the Argosy/Art Institute Petition for Writ of Mandate. Staff is working to get the final system programming completed to permit the students that attended impacted campuses during the 2012-13 academic year to receive their Cal Grant awards and to update the eligibility of the Argosy and Art Institute campuses for the 2013-14 academic year.

The Commission has hired a program compliance auditor to fill a vacancy in the Legal & Audit Services Division. In addition, one of the program compliance auditors will be transitioning from program compliance audits to internal audits to fill a long-term vacancy in that area.

❖ **Program Administration and Services Division (PASD) Update**

Cal Grant Award Processing

- As of September 3, 2013, approximately 131,000 High School Entitlement (E1) Cal Grant award offers have been to new students starting college during the 2013-14 academic year. About 6,000 of the total E1 (first-time) award offers were made to Dream Applicants.
- The Commission completed the selection of the 2013-14 March 2 Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards on May 17 and notified the students. Applicants with a score of 162 (out of 200) or above were offered a Cal Grant.
- 49,500 Transfer Entitlement (E2) students were notified on May 15, 2013 to complete the Transfer Entitlement Cal Grant Certification Form (G6) for further eligibility consideration. As a reminder, the 2012-13 State Budget contained a provision that changed the E2 program for the 2013-14 year by expanding the community college attendance requirement for an additional year prior to the transfer to a baccalaureate-degree-granting institution.
- The 2013-14 renewal process was run successfully on June 14, 2013. Approximately 197,000 current Cal Grant recipients were eligible to renew their Cal Grants for the 2013-14 award year. The renewal process occurs monthly.
- The Commission notified over 64,000 students eligible to complete the Cal Grant C supplement in WebGrants for Students to complete for the 7,761 authorized awards. The Cal Grant C award selection occurred on August 3, 2013.

- The Commission has processed the top two percent of Cal Grant B recipients resulting in 1,643 E1 students eligible for both the tuition/fee component along with the access portion in their first year.
- Unpaid 2012-13 competitive students received an e-mail message to take action on their Cal Grant award. The Commission encouraged the unpaid students to communicate with their financial aid office or post a leave of absence on their WebGrants for Students account to preserve their award.
- The Commission also sent a reminder communication on September 12, 2013 to 2013-14 to about 40,000 E1 students that have not completed their high school graduation verification requirement (G8).
- The 2013-14 September 2nd Competitive Award cycle is scheduled for the first the week of October. Community Colleges are currently submitting their grade point average records and enrollment files.
- The 2014-15 Grade Point Average (GPA) upload process for high schools and colleges will open in WebGrants on Monday, September 23, 2013. Paper GPA forms will also be available.

Data Exchange with California Department of Education

- An Interagency Agreement (IA) with the California Department of Education (CDE) has been drafted to establish a process whereby student data can be exchanged with the Commission to establish student eligibility for the Cal Grant program. The IA is intended to protect data exchanged between the CDE and the Commission for the purposes of:
 - (1) Identifying and/or determining student eligibility for programs administered by the Commission, including but not limited to, eligibility for the Cal Grant Program and the California Dream Act;
 - (2) Matching student records against other data submitted to the Commission for purposes of establishing or confirming student identification for students without Social Security Numbers;
 - (3) State reporting, including reports and requests made by the Legislature or other authorized State entities; and
 - (4) Studies and program evaluation conducted to evaluate education program planning and effectiveness.
- Staff will work directly with CDE staff to implement the IA and establish the system for data reporting to be implemented by early 2014.

Training and Outreach

- Monthly Cal Grant 101, payments & reconciliation and Dream Act webinars continue to be offered. In response to the competitive advisory workgroup meeting, a “payment & adjustment” code webinar will also be offered in a few weeks.

- 2014-15 GPA Submission Training will start in October and continue through February 2014.
- The 21 CSAC/CASFAA High School Counselors Workshops will be held October 23 through November 16. In 2012, over 2500 high school counselors received information on general student financial aid and the Commission's programs.

❖ Information Technology Services (ITS) Division Update

- ITS Strategic Plan

ITS completed their Strategic Plan and submitted it to the CSAC Executive Steering Committee (ESC) for their approval. The ESC is comprised of CSAC executive and senior management.

- Dream Act Software Application Enhancements

ITS is currently enhancing the Dream Act software application to include parent signature/application approval, a more user friendly interface, and skip logic to tailor the type of questions asked of applications. The skip logic will improve the accuracy of the information being provided by applicants plus, reducing the time spent to complete the Dream Act application. ITS completed the first lap of software development and will complete all of the enhancements by January 2014.

- Middle Class Scholarship (MCS)

ITS worked with PASD to define the type of MCS eligibility that needs to be collected from the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) institutions. An initial data file structure was drafted that was shared with the UC and CSU stakeholders. The next step is for ITS to develop an interface to share MCS data between CSAC and the UC/CSU institutions. Work will begin on this interface in Fall 2013.

- Success Dashboard

ITS is working with the Cash for College staff to identify the data from CSAC's Grant Delivery System (GDS) that accurately depicts state and federal financial aid progress by individual California High School. ITS staff is creating a data repository (called a data warehouse) where this data will be stored and, ultimately, displayed on CSAC's public website. The GDS portion of the data warehouse will be completed by mid-October 2013.

- GDS Oracle Migration and System Assessment

ITS continues to migrate the GDS Oracle database from Version 10G to 11G. Included in this work effort is the assessment of the security, database design and GDS application(s) integrity/code base. All work is scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2013.

- Service Improvement Project (SIP)

Staff continues to work on improving ITS practices and adoption of industry “best practices” for software development, project management, testing, and quality assurance. ITS recently adopted the Agile software development methodology that promotes working software as the primary measure of progress.

As always, I am including a matrix that summarizes the actions taken by the Commission at their most recent meetings with updates on the status of those issues. Here below are the outcomes of the Commission’s April, May and June 2013 meetings:

| | ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION | STATUS UPDATE |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | <p>Commission Meeting Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At its April 25-26, 2013 meeting, the Commission approved the February 21-22, 2013 minutes, with the following amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Delete all references to Barry Keene’s absence; and – On page 10, 3rd paragraph, replace “AB _____” with “AB 534”. <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogue, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell Absent: Commissioners Beltran and Scott</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At its June 20-21, 2013 meeting, the Commission approved the April 25-26, 2013 minutes, as amended on page 8 to reflect that, prior to adopting a “Support in Concept” position on AB 1318 (Bonilla) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program, concerns were raised about the match, the statutory formula, weighing towards the California State University (CSU) and the price. <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogue, Moore, Sawyer, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell Abstained: Commissioner Scott Absent: Commissioners Le Grande and Shah</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The February 21-22, 2013 minutes have been revised with the approved amendments and will be submitted to the Secretary for signature. • The April 25-26, 2013 minutes have been revised with the approved amendments and will be submitted to the Secretary for signature. |
| 2 | <p>EdFund Board of Directors</p> <p>At the April meeting, the Commission approved the Consent Calendar, which included the consideration of designating Commissioner(s) appointed after February 22, 2013 as Director on the EdFund Board.</p> <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogue, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell Absent: Commissioners Beltran and Scott</p> | <p>No further action is required.</p> |

| | ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION | STATUS UPDATE |
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| <p>3</p> | <p>Federal College Access Challenge Grant</p> <p>In April, the Commission unanimously approved the following staff recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a recommendation to the Governor to file a request with the U.S. Department of Education for a waiver from the Maintenance of Effort requirements for Challenge Grant eligibility. • Authorize staff to send letters to the California congressional delegation asking for support of California’s waiver request. • Submit a recommendation to the Governor to make changes to the 2013-14 Challenge Grant application as presented by staff at the April 25-26, 2013 Commission meeting. • Submit a recommendation to the Governor that the 2013-14 Challenge Grant funding proposed for the Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE) program be reduced to absorb the sequester funding reduction and to fund the new activities being proposed for in the 2013-14 Challenge Grant application. <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geioque, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell Absent: Commissioners Beltran and Scott</p> <p>At its May 23, 2013 meeting, the Commission approved to support seeking State funding for Cal-SOAP and Cash for College if federal funds are not available.</p> <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Geioque, Le Grande, Sawyer, Scott, Siqueiros and McDowell Absent: Commissioners Garcia Vasquez, Moore and Shah</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission sent a letter to the Governor’s Principal Education Policy Consultant on May 10th to file the federal Challenge Grant waiver request. • Commission staff communicated a request for support for California’s waiver request to Under Secretary Martha Kanter, Kari La Costa with Congresswoman Doris Matsui’s office, Rich Williams with Congressman George Miller’s office and Patricia Ross with Representative Nancy Pelosi’s office in Washington, DC. • The May 10th letter to the Governor’s Office also included the Commission’s recommendation to make changes to the 2013-14 Challenge Grant application. • On May 2nd, Commission staff communicated to the Director of the Department of Finance the Commission’s recommendation that the sequester reduction be absorbed through savings in the loan assumption programs (also funded through the Challenge Grant). Staff also worked with the Legislature to request support of the Commission’s recommendation but, ultimately, it was not adopted. • The Commission sent a letter to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on May 31, 2013 seeking support. |
| <p>4</p> | <p>Cohort Default Rate (CDR) Manipulation</p> <p>In April, the Commission unanimously approved the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Send a letter to the Federal Department of Education expressing the Commission’s concerns about CDR manipulation and ask the Department of Education for specific sets of data about California that will help the Commission assess to what extent it is a problem in California; | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commission staff communicated concerns to Rich Williams in Congressman George Miller’s office. |

| | ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION | STATUS UPDATE |
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| | <p>2. Have a Commissioner provide testimony at the Department of Education’s Negotiated Rulemaking Task Force Meeting on May 30, 2013 in San Francisco and weigh in on CDR manipulation and possibly other issues; and</p> <p>3. Write a letter to Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) asking for a specific set of data that would help the Commission to identify to what degree CDR manipulation is a problem in California and with which institutions it is a problem.</p> <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell Absent: Commissioners Beltran and Scott</p> | <p>2. On May 30th, Commissioner Garcia Vasquez testified before the Task Force on CDR manipulation, student financial aid debit cards and the Commission’s priorities.</p> <p>3. On August 1st, Commission staff sent a letter to Richard Boyle, President/CEO of the ECMC Group, and Jan Hines, President/CEO of ECMC Guarantor.</p> |
| <p>5</p> | <p>Consideration of Ways to Use All 22,500 Authorized Cal Grant Competitive Awards</p> <p>In April, the Commission unanimously approved the staff recommendation to request that the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office provide the Commission access to the enrollment file so that the Commission can better distribute Cal Grant Competitive Awards.</p> <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell Absent: Commissioners Beltran and Scott</p> | <p>Commission staff held consultation meetings with segmental representatives and other interested stakeholders including the Department of Finance, the Legislative Analyst’s Office and Commissioner Nancy Anton to identify options for increasing the Competitive Cal Grant utilization rate.</p> <p>Staff has amended the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office to use the enrollment files for multiple terms.</p> |
| <p>6</p> | <p>State Legislative Bills that Affect Commission Programs</p> <p>In April, the Commission adopted the following positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support if amended Assembly Bill (AB) 1241 (Weber) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Arzate, Conley, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Sawyer, Siqueiros and McDowell Passed: Commissioners Anton, Doud and Moore Abstained: Commissioners Le Grande and Shah Absent: Commissioners Beltran and Scott</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support if amended AB 1285 (Fong) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Arzate, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Siqueiros and McDowell Abstained: Commissioners Anton, Geiogoue</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 12th, letters were sent to the Chair of the Senate Education Committee in support of SB 141, SB 150 and SB 285. • May 9th, a letter was sent to Senator de León in support of SB 285. • May 15th, a floor alert was sent to the Assembly in support of AB 1162 at the request of the author. • May 24th, AB 1241, AB 1285, AB 1318, and AB 1364 were amended. • June 20th, letters were sent to the Chair of the Senate Education Committee in support of AB 1241, AB 1285, AB 1287 (if |

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| | <p><i>and Shah Absent: Commissioners Beltran and Scott</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support if amended AB 1287 (Quirk-Silva) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Eligibility <i>In Favor: Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell Abstained: Commissioner Geiogoue Absent: Commissioners Beltran and Scott</i> • Support in Concept AB 1318 (Bonilla) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program <i>In Favor: Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Conley, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell Absent: Commissioners Beltran, Doud and Scott</i> • Support if amended AB 1364 (Ting) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program <i>In Favor: Commissioners Anton, Conley, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Moore, Sawyer, Shah and McDowell Opposed: Commissioner Siqueiros Abstained: Commissioners Arzate, Le Grande Absent: Commissioners Beltran, Doud and Scott</i> • Support if amended AB 1162 (Frazier) Student Financial Aid: Debit Cards <i>In Favor: Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Conley, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell Absent: Commissioners Beltran, Doud and Scott</i> • Support Senate Bill (SB) 595 (R. Calderon) Postsecondary Education: Financial Aid <i>In Favor: Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Conley, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell Abstained: Commissioner Sawyer Absent: Commissioners Beltran, Doud and Scott</i> <p>In June, the Commission adopted the following positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support SB 524 (Lara) Pupil Instruction: Pathways Curriculum Task Force <i>In Favor: Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Sawyer, Scott, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell Absent: Commissioners Le Grande and Moore</i> • Support Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) 20 (Pérez): Relative to student loan interest rates <i>In Favor: Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Sawyer, Scott, Shah and McDowell Opposed: Commissioner Siqueiros Absent: Commissioners Le Grande and Moore</i> | <p>amended) and AB 1364.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 21st, a letter was sent to the Chair of the Senate Education Committee supporting AB 1318 (Bonilla) in concept. • June 28th, a letter was sent to Senators Steinberg and Lara in support of SB 524. • July 9th, AB 1287 was amended. • August 26th, letters were sent to the Chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee in support of SB 285 and SB 524 (for passage off of Suspense). • August 27th, a letter was sent to Governor Jerry Brown in support of SB 595. |

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| 7 | <p>Dream Act Legislation in Other States</p> <p>At the May 23rd meeting, the Commission authorized staff to take all the necessary steps to establish and fund a process to allow other states to receive CSAC assistance to implement and process their Dream Act application, including legislation, if necessary, and those funds would supplement existing funds.</p> <p><i>In Favor: Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Geiogue, Le Grande, Sawyer, Scott and McDowell Absent: Commissioners Garcia Vasquez, Moore, Shah and Siqueiros</i></p> | <p>Authority was obtained to establish the fund. However, the State of Minnesota decided to contract with a private vendor due to the time limitations and costs related to the application process.</p> |
| 8 | <p>Menlo College Appeal</p> <p>At the June 20-21, 2013 meeting, the Commission approved the Menlo College appeal with the finding, as stated below:</p> <p>The California Student Aid Commission finds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Menlo College has been determined to be ineligible for Cal Grant awards for 2013-14 because the United States Department of Education (USED) has reported the Menlo College 2009 3-year cohort default rate (CDR) to be higher than the maximum CDR of 15.5% authorized by Education Code section 69432.7(/)(3)(C). b. Due to a mistake by a loan servicer involving data for just one student, Menlo College's CDR was incorrectly calculated to be 15.6%. c. Using factually correct data, Menlo College's CDR is 15.15%. d. Menlo College failed to timely avail itself of USED challenge and appeal processes to correct the mistake. e. USED has verified that had Menlo College timely challenged and appealed the mistakenly calculated CDR, USED's reported 2009 3-year CDR for Menlo College would have been below 15.5%, and that the Menlo College would have been eligible for Cal Grant awards in 2013-14. <p>The Commission concludes that despite the technical lack of compliance with the method by</p> | <p>Menlo College's Cal Grant eligibility has been reinstated.</p> |

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| | <p>which Education Code section 69432.7(/)(3)(C) requires the Commission to identify a CDR to use to establish institutional eligibility for a Cal Grant, Menlo College complies with the substantive standard established by section 69432.7(/)(3)(C) by having a factually correct CDR below 15.5%. This satisfies the primary purpose of section 69432.7(/)(3)(C) and constitutes substantial compliance for purposes of determining Menlo College for Cal Grants.</p> <p>Based on these unique circumstances, the appeal by Menlo College is granted.</p> <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Moore, Sawyer, Scott, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell Abstained: Commissioner Geiogoue Absent: Commissioner Le Grande</p> | |
| <p>9</p> | <p>Contracts and Contract Amendments</p> <p>In June, the Commission approved the following contracts and contract amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$150,000 for a contract for information technology consulting services to upgrade the Grant Delivery System (GDS) from Oracle 10g to Oracle 11g and to conduct an assessment of the GDS and its applications <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Sawyer, Scott, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell Absent: Commissioners Le Grande and Moore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment to the Radian Solutions LLC, Contract No. S-12-008 for information technology consulting services to increase the amount of the contract from \$215,250 up to \$350,000 and to extend the term of the contract to June 30, 2014 <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Sawyer, Scott, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell Absent: Commissioners Le Grande and Moore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment to the Stanfield Systems, Incorporated, Contract No. S-12-007 for information technology consulting services to increase the amount of the contract from \$188,275 up to \$350,000 and to extend the term of the contract to June 30, 2014 <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Sawyer, Scott, Shah,</p> | <p>All contracts were executed with amendments and work tasks are being completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A contract for \$153,450.00 was executed on June 27, 2013. • A contract amendment was executed on June 27, 2013. • A contract amendment was executed on June 27, 2013. |

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| | <i>Siqueiros and McDowell Absent: Commissioners Le Grande and Moore</i> | |

In addition, the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) Project Directors' Report is attached.

The Commission staff looks forward to seeing you on September 19th and 20th in Rancho Cordova!

Sincerely,

Diana Fuentes-Michel
 Executive Director
*1975-1979 Cal Grant B award recipient and
 1979 Graduate of Loyola Marymount University*



Cal-SOAP Project Directors Report September 2013

Presented by Erin Gemar

Chairman McDowell, Commissioners, and Commission Staff,

In the first quarter of this calendar year, I shared data with you from our Year End reports. Cal-SOAP is extremely proud of our almost 90% college-going rate, the over 13 million dollars we have had the privilege to grant in scholarships, and the over 500 low-income college students we employ on an annual basis. I highlighted the fortitude and energy of our group of PDs and consortium staff who make these successes possible through hard work and compassion for underrepresented youth in our state.

In the spring, I shared additional data on our financial aid outreach components, our involvement with Cash for College events, and most importantly, the intensive FAFSA follow-up education we provide to thousands of families who find the system daunting to navigate. We celebrated with you the accomplishments of the Dream Act Application and the amazing opportunity that Cal-Grants provide to some of the neediest students in California. We also are painfully aware of the work that still lies ahead so that ALL eligible students have the opportunity to attend college at an affordable rate. For that reason, I also asked you last spring to help Cal-SOAPs continue the work we do by proactively seeking the waiver necessary to secure funding for this fiscal year and beyond.

In June, I had the opportunity to sit in on your 2-day strategic planning meeting. I applaud the work you accomplished and the commitment you each make every day to put your words and ideas into real action plans that will have a positive effect on the lives of students. Commissioner Siqueros mentioned the first morning, that her top priority is awareness and education. She elaborated by stating, "There's no opportunity to go to college if you're not aware of it and I think our neediest students deserve the most attention and priority." And finally, she brought up the words "effectiveness and efficiency" as goals for the Commission as an agency.

Through our collaboration with CSAC and the Cash for College Campaign, and due to our expanding work with the College Access Foundation of California (CAFC), Cal-SOAP has emerged as a leader in California public school districts and entire counties that just a year or two ago, knew nothing about Cal-Grant eligibility and FAFSA completion rates. CAFC grantees like the majority of Cal-SOAPs not only provide scholarships but more in-depth financial aid education in high schools, and more long-term support as we follow cohorts of Cal-SOAP students through college.

What we do for students on a limited budget, and limited staff and other resources, is truly incredible.

Exhibit 22

The reason we are efficient and effective in our schools and with our targeted populations is because of the relationship we have with our partners. Communication and Collaboration are the keys to the partnerships Cal-SOAPs form in each community we serve. Using these same best practices of communication and collaboration, we are eager and passionate to move forward in our partnership with the Student Aid Commissions. Thank you for your continued support as we:

- 1) Explore long-term funding opportunities for the Statewide Cal-SOAP;
- 2) Purchase a new database software system in 2013-2014 that will be used as a tool for qualitative program evaluation; and
- 3) Highlight Cal-SOAP best practices to our State's decision-makers at every opportunity possible. In the arenas of financial aid and scholarship education, and all that we do to provide early academic outreach to our underrepresented families, Cal-SOAP literally walks students and parents through each of the required applications, counsels them on college-choice, and teaches them how to cover the cost of higher education. One student at a time, Cal-SOAP is making a positive difference in statewide education trends.

Erin C. Gemar
2013 Lead Project Director
Project Director
South County Cal-SOAP since 2003
Happy 10th Anniversary!