

**Public Comment from  
UC Davis**

**California Student Aid Commission meeting  
September 25, 2007  
Tab item 1 – Cal-SOAP funding**



FRED E. WOOD  
*Vice Chancellor*

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September 21, 2007

**KIM TAYLOR**

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California Student Aid Commission  
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**RE: Solano County Cal SOAP**

Dear Kim,

The University of California, Davis is well positioned and eager to support the development, implementation, and management of a new Cal SOAP initiative for Solano County. We believe this initiative is important to increase awareness of post-secondary opportunities and financial aid resources for students and families, and to increase student preparedness for such opportunities. This Cal SOAP initiative would become a core program of UC Davis's department of Academic Preparation Programs (APP). The overall goal of APP and its respective outreach programs is to increase the number of educationally and economically challenged students who graduate from high school prepared for study at post-secondary institutions.

APP has a long and successful history of developing college-ready students in the schools and communities of Solano County. The Early Academic Outreach Program, Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search, National Youth Sports Program and the Dixon Regional Educational Alliance and Movement (DREAM), all successful programs of APP, have long-standing partnerships with schools across Solano County. These partnerships will serve as a critical foundation component of a new Cal SOAP initiative.

A brief review of the data demonstrates the need for continuing educational partnerships in Solano County. According to the 2006 CPEC customized report on Solano County schools and enrollment of first time freshmen in public institutions:

- Latinos and blacks make up half or less than half of all students going to UC, CSU, or CCC.
- A majority of students going on to college are not enrolling in a four year college or university.

Additionally, the 2007 California County Data Book for Solano County reports:

- Students who meet UC/CSU entrance requirements:
  - Solano County: 27%
  - Greater Bay Area: 42%
  - Statewide: 35%

- Students who meet UC/CSU entrance requirements:
  - African American: 17%
  - Asian: 34%
  - Latino: 18%
  - White: 33%
  - Other: 24%
- Percentage of 10th-graders who passed the California High School English Exit Exam:
  - Economically Disadvantaged: 61%
  - Not Economically Disadvantaged: 86%
- Percentage of 10th-graders who passed the California High School Math Exit Exam:
  - Economically Disadvantaged: 58%
  - Not Economically Disadvantaged: 81%.

It is unfortunate that Cal SOAP sustained a significant budget cut during the latest budget process. The impact this will have on Cal SOAP across the state is immeasurable; however, discontinuing Cal SOAP in Solano County would be devastating to the students, families, and communities in the county. Establishing educational partnerships is complex work requiring extensive effort over the course of many years. UC Davis was a founding partner in the former Cal SOAP initiative, SUCCESS Consortium, which provided services for over 26 years. Discontinuing the RFP process to re-establish a Cal SOAP initiative in Solano County would make it extremely difficult, if not impossible in the immediate future, to re-establish such an educational partnership. UC Davis recognizes this and is prepared to help lead the establishment and oversight of a new Cal SOAP.

UC Davis remains committed to supporting a Cal SOAP initiative in Solano County as both a partner and the fiscal and administrative lead. Please accept this brief memo as notice of our intent to submit a proposal for the Solano County Cal SOAP if the opportunity becomes available. If you, your colleagues, or the commissioners of CSAC have any questions, please feel free to contact:

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Sincerely,



Fred E. Wood  
Vice Chancellor—Student Affairs

**Public Comment from  
UC Berkeley**

**California Student Aid Commission meeting  
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Solano Cal-SOAP  
UC Berkeley Pre-Proposal

## NEED

Solano County is in great need of continued services to increase college going among its low-income, first-generation and otherwise educationally disadvantaged students. Statistics for the County as a whole obscure the urgent need for services to low-income and ethnic minority students. Twenty-three percent of residents 25 years and older have at least a bachelor's degree; only 15% lack a high school diploma or its equivalent. These figures indicate only slightly lower college degree attainment compared to the state (29%) and slightly higher high school degree attainment (20% lack such diplomas statewide).<sup>1</sup> But the low-income rate among primary and secondary school students in the county is significant. More than one-third (36.5%) are eligible for free or reduced lunch.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, there are many schools where the vast majority of students do not go to college. There are clearly large pockets of students in Solano that greatly need and deserve the college preparation and academic support services of Cal-SOAP.

In 2005-06, SUCCESS served 3,905 students intensively and 2,031 generally who attended 27 schools. As resources allow and depending upon analysis of demographic and college-going data, and further conversations with school staff and administrators, UC Berkeley seeks to continue providing services to almost all previously served schools. We expect to add two high-need schools in the area – Franklin Middle and Solano Middle. Priority will be given to schools with greatest need, highest school commitment and to those that are located in Solano County.

The following need statistics apply to the schools served by the prior Cal-SOAP plus Franklin and Solano Middle Schools where a total of 29,019 students are enrolled. More than one-third (37.1%) of students, 10,771, are low-income as determined by their eligibility for free or reduced lunch. Furthermore, at nearly one-half of the target schools more than 45% of students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. In terms of ethnicity, these students are very diverse. More than one-half (53.3%) of all students, for a total of 15,459, are students from ethnic groups underrepresented in post-secondary education: African-American, Hispanic and American Indian. At three-quarters of the schools, students from these ethnic groups compose 51.5%-83.5% of the school population. These 29 schools also serve large numbers of students for whom English is a second language. More than one-quarter (26.9%) of students (7,806) do not speak English as their primary language.<sup>3</sup>

Students at these schools are challenged on their road to college. While the target high schools graduate between three-fifths and four-fifths (38%-84.6%) of their students, only a small minority are prepared to go to college. From 0%-38.8% of students complete the “a-g” college preparatory courses that are required to apply to the state’s four-year colleges – University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) – the main destination of California’s four-year college students. Ultimately, only 0.0%-13.9% of students go to a four-year college. Combined with the students who go to community college, the college going rate for ninth graders at these schools is 24.1%-50.3%. Of those who manage to graduate 28.2%-93.7% do

NOT continue on to higher education. This is despite the open enrollment policies of the community colleges.

The college going rates are significantly worse for the African-American, Hispanic and Native American students who comprise the majority at many of the target schools. From 0%-11.4% of this total cohort go to the state's public four-year colleges, UC and CSU. Only 2.7%-34.7% of the students who began 9<sup>th</sup> grade in these schools matriculate to college. Starkly, 53.3%-90% of African-Americans, Hispanic and Native American graduates of the target schools do NOT proceed to college.<sup>4</sup>

Students at these Solano schools are further challenged by the SAT. Approximately one-third of seniors take the test (30%-40%) but the average scores of the combined verbal and math barely reach 1000 of 1600 (855-1043).<sup>5</sup>

#### BACKGROUND-Fiscal Agent

The University of California, Berkeley, the fiscal agent, has longstanding success in preparing students from low-income and otherwise challenged backgrounds to go to college. The Center for Educational Partnerships (CEP) in the Division of Student Affairs is home to the largest of UC Berkeley's K-14 academic outreach programs. CEP's ten programs include Early Academic Outreach Program, Destination:College AmeriCorps Advising Corps, Transfer Alliance Project, School-University Partnerships, the federally funded Upward Bound and Talent Search Programs and two \$1 million programs funded by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation (the College Advisor program and Community College Transfer Initiative). In 2005-06, the programs in CEP served over 22,000 K-14 students in approximately 30 K-12 schools and 30 community colleges located in Northern and Southern California. An average of ninety percent (90%) of high school seniors in the CEP programs are accepted into college. Of under-served students in CEP programs who applied to UC Berkeley over the last seven years, 44% were accepted to UC Berkeley, compared to 23% of all applicants.

UC Berkeley is well known as the world's premier public university. However, the university is also very much a Bay Area institution and is mandated by UC Office of the President to serve the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) Region 4 which includes Solano County. Research on commuting patterns and trends highlights that Solano County is an integral part of the Bay Area. Many of Solano's residents work in San Francisco and its immediately surrounding counties. In 2000, 42.5% (73,401) of Solano residents commuted outside of the county, of which 67.3% (49,403) commuted to San Francisco, Marin, Alameda or Contra Costa. These numbers are projected to grow by 2010 such that almost half of Solano residents will commute outside the county (105,345) of which two-thirds (69,895) will commute to San Francisco, Marin, Alameda or Contra Costa counties.<sup>6</sup>

#### SCHOOLS

As resources allow, we intend to serve most of the 27 schools previously served by the Cal-SOAP-Solano SUCCESS consortium. Given this, our priority is to serve the neediest schools in terms of college preparation as demonstrated by factors including API scores, high percentage of low-income students served (measured by the percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch), low college going rates and low “a-g” completion rates. Further, our priority will be to serve schools in Solano County whose staff and administrators have shown a strong commitment to supporting and furthering the goal of post-secondary education for low-income students.

Our resulting preliminary list is as follows:

1) Top Priority

- Vallejo City Unified: Jesse M. Bethel High, Hogan High, Vallejo High, Vallejo Middle
- Fairfield Suisun Unified: Armijo High, Fairfield High, Chrystal Middle, Grange Middle Sullivan Middle, Amy Blanc Elementary, Suisun Elementary
- Vacaville Unified: Vacaville High, Will C. Wood High, Willis Jepson Middle
- Dixon Unified: Dixon High

2) Good Candidate New Schools -- Fit Need profile for Cal-SOAP program and are feeder middle schools to target high schools

- Vallejo City Unified: Franklin Middle School, Solano Middle School

3) Previously served schools which need further analysis and conversations before continuing

- Benicia Unified: Liberty High
- Mare Island Technology Academy: MIT Middle School and High School
- Vallejo City Unified: People’s Continuation High School
- Fairfield Suisun Unified: Mary Bird Alternative School

4) Schools located Outside Solano County to be Served if Resources Allow:

- Sacramento County: Natomas Unified: Inderkum High, Natomas High, Discovery High (needs further conversation with school administrators/staff), Leroy Greene Middle, Natomas Middle
- Yolo County: Winters Joint Unified: Winters High, Winters Middle

To determine our preliminary list of priority service sites we primarily used three data sources for demographic (e.g. ethnicity, reduced free lunch, English learners), school (e.g. API) and college going data (e.g. graduation, “a-g” completion, college-destination) and school by school student college destination: (1) Academic Preparation Program Reference System (APPRIS) ; (2) the California Department of Education website and (3) the data provided on the California Post-

Secondary Education Commission High School Characteristics – Student Destinations web site. We used these data to analyze the schools served by the previous Cal-SOAP-Solano Consortium as well as other schools in the county which also serve large numbers of low-income students and which have low college-going rates.

During the planning period, we intend to finalize the list of schools to be served and the number of students per school, by analyzing all available data and most importantly, visiting the schools to assess staff and administrator support for Cal-SOAP's programs and goals, and evaluate the resources at the school (including staff, parents or auxiliary groups and other outreach programs) that would enable us to fully leverage Cal-SOAP's resources, and have the greatest impact.

## PARTNERS

To plan and implement the Cal-SOAP grant in Solano, we will borrow from best practices gained from our past experience and fully leverage the Cal-SOAP funds by working with a broad complement of partners with years of experience and proven track records who are strongly committed - in action and in resources - to the goal of college-going for low-income, first-generation college or otherwise educationally disadvantaged students.

We have already contacted many of the partners who participated in the previous Cal-SOAP Solano, including UC Davis, Napa Valley and Solano Community Colleges, California Maritime Academy, community-based organizations, and several school sites/districts. All of the partners have expressed interest in working together with UC Berkeley to serve Solano's neediest students. In the planning period we will explore further partnerships and fully assess the contributions of the partners listed above, but can already attest to their enthusiasm and commitment to sustaining Cal-SOAP in Solano County.

To minimize duplication of efforts and explore additional potential partners, early in our planning process we will spearhead (and regularly convene) a council composed of public, non-profit, and private college preparation programs in the Solano County area. We have been active participants of several such councils in the Bay Area, assisting Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) in establishing college going as one of its top three priorities and helping lead the twenty-six member, *OUSD College Readiness Network*, which includes faith-based and other community non-profits, the school and community college districts and Cal State and UC campuses. We also support the twenty-one member, *Contra Costa P-16 Task Force*, composed of a variety of K-12 schools, school districts, businesses and institutions of higher education (community colleges, Cal State and UC) in implementing college-going services and awareness at four middle-schools in four different districts for students and their teachers, families, and administrators.

Our work in Solano will benefit from Berkeley's success implementing several college preparation and advising programs in Solano, which can leverage Cal-SOAP's funds. Specifically, we are providing intensive college advising and preparation assistance at Bethel High through the Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP). Further, thanks to our multi-year \$1 million College Advisor grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, we are devoting over \$80,000 in new resources during 2006-07 to provide Vallejo Unified School District students

with ongoing one-to-one, group and school-wide college and financial aid advising and preparation services. We have also recently expanded our tremendously successful Transfer Alliance Project (TAP) at Solano and Napa Valley Community Colleges, the destination community colleges of many Solano high school students. Currently serving 600 students state-wide annually, and growing to 1,000 by the year 2010 through funding from the Jack Kent Cooke Community College Transfer Initiative, TAP works one-to-one with low-income and otherwise educationally disadvantaged students to enable them to be competitive applicants to Berkeley. In recent years, more than 90% of TAP applicants to Berkeley have been admitted annually.

## FISCAL

CEP has a policy and history of strong fiscal responsibility. The department employs 68 career, 108 instructional and 29 administrative staff with a total budget over \$7 million. The Center has significant experience managing public grants – including \$1.8 million in federal and \$750 thousand in state and local grants in FY05-06. CEP is the long-time recipient of three federally-funded TRIO grants, including those for Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math & Science and the Talent Search Program (which was awarded a fifth year for having received a perfect score from reviewers in 2006).

UCB's CEP subscribes to the best practices in management and strong adherence to the principles of accountability and transparency. The Center provides centralized administration and oversight to ensure adherence to University payroll, personnel, business, and financial policies and procedures. The Berkeley Financial System, an on-line accounting and accounts payable system, allows CEP business staff to access financial and personnel information necessary to create necessary journals and reports to clearly track expenditures by fund and program source. Administrative and fundraising expenses were eight percent of the total CEP budget in 05-06, our most recent audited year.

For the past two decades, Berkeley has supported the East Bay Consortium (EBC) through an important fiscal partnership. EBC's key career staff are Berkeley employees. The Center for Educational Partnerships (CEP) Director has been a member of the EBC Board since 2001 and currently serves as Secretary, so is well aware of the governance structure and the value of broad intersegmental participation. Clearly, the strong relationships that have developed with other Center for Educational Partnerships programs have greatly enhanced the work that EBC is doing in the Oakland area.

## FUNDRAISING

CEP has a strong track record of fundraising. In addition to university and state funding, CEP raised \$4.7 million in 2005-2006. Notably, Berkeley was one of two universities in the country to receive two million-dollar grants (each paid over four years) by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. CEP was also awarded numerous grants from Gates Foundation through the

Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and, as noted above, CEP is a long-term recipient of Federal TRIO grants.

Both Jack Kent Cooke Foundation grants require a one-to-one match, as do the AmeriCorps grants that UCB has had for six years. In addition, we have successfully met various matching requirements mandated in past years for specific components of the state Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnership (outreach) funding.

State support of CEP through the Governor's Allocation for Academic Preparation was cut from \$3.5 million in FY00-01 to \$1.2 million in FY05-06. But strategic expansion of grants and gifts increased our services by 40 percent during this same time period. We have hired a part-time development director who develops foundation support; nurtures individual donor prospects, and facilitates alumni network and donor strategies.

We receive strong support from the UC Berkeley administration (\$1.2 million in FY05-06) as Chancellor Robert Birgeneau has made accessibility for low-income and under-represented students a keystone of his administration.

## SERVICES

The precise services and methods for UC-Berkeley and its consortium will depend on the funds allotted to Cal-SOAP Solano and any changes in the RFP - including changes in required services. Further, in implementing our programs we will draw on 40 years of successfully preparing students to go to college, while also borrowing from the best practices of and partnering with Solano County educational leaders and CEP's ten programs, such as EAOP, Talent Search and Jack Kent Cooke College Advisor Program and Transfer Alliance Project, which are successfully providing college and financial aid preparation, advising and academic support to K-14 students throughout the Bay Area.

The grade-appropriate college information and advising, and academic support services we will implement with our CAL-SOAP partners include: one-to-one and small group transcript evaluation; creating Individual Academic Plans (IAP) to ensure that students are on track to begin and complete the critical "a-g" sequence of courses; PSAT/SAT preparation and information; college information and visits; detailed college and financial aid application assistance and enrollment assistance and one-to-one and group tutoring. Enrolled college students with demonstrated financial need will play an important role in providing the services to secondary school students. For the past six years, 70 UC Berkeley students from such economic backgrounds have successfully provided college preparation and academic support services in a cost-effective and culturally relevant manner through our Destination: College AmeriCorps program.

We will also use our experience providing financial aid advising (including three years as a recipient of an Ed Fund grant which enabled us to significantly increase Cal Grant award rates in 18 high schools) to: provide students, families and school partners with information on and detailed assistance with the FAFSA and Cal Grants, spread awareness of and assist students and

their families to participate in Cash for College events and Scholarship opportunities; counsel students and their families about Federal Education Loan Programs and default prevention.

We also intend to explore implementing summer residential and day academies on university campuses, which have been central components of our existing outreach programs. Leading educational researcher Dr. Patricia McDonough (UCLA) identified that a key determinant of college attendance is having college plans by the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Therefore we aim to provide these resources at grade-appropriate levels from 7<sup>th</sup> –to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. For maximum efficiency, especially for lower grade levels, we expect to provide Professional Development utilizing CEP’s “Realizing the College Dream,” a curriculum for K-12 teachers and counselors to create and strengthen college going culture, which has been recommended for national use by the U.S. Department of Education. Our work will reach not only students, but families, teachers and administrators and will include bilingual workshops. “Realizing the College Dream” will be used in addition to the “I’m Going to College” curriculum to serve fourth graders in target elementary schools.

Our Transfer Alliance Project and Community College Transfer Center provides intensive and general advising and support to community college transfer students at Solano and Napa Valley Colleges. This will reinforce the “Transfer: Making it Happen” (TMIH) program.

## EVALUATION

CEP places great emphasis on evaluation and accountability. We have conducted internal evaluations and worked with external evaluators to create internal assessment tools. For the Cal-SOAP program, we intend to collect a combination of quantitative and qualitative data to assess the effectiveness of the program and make changes as necessary. This data will be compared to benchmarks we will establish as we deepen our knowledge of the target students during the planning process with community partners and service delivery sites. Data will be collected about each student served intensively.

Depending on the services provided, the data collected could include: changes in level of academic performance before and after regular tutoring; enrollment and completion of Algebra I and “a-g” classes; financial aid (FAFSA) submission rates; application and receipt rate of Cal Grants; college application and admission rates; and post-secondary destinations. We will also create survey instruments to measure the impact of one-time events such as family college and financial aid workshops, college tours and “college-awareness” workshops for middle school students. CEP has extensive experience in successfully creating and using these instruments. Feedback from evaluations will be used in a timely fashion to improve the programs as necessary. Further feedback and analysis will occur during regular meetings of the consortia. Staff members will also be required to regularly do their own self and program evaluations.

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<sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

<sup>2</sup> California Department of Education, Education Demographics Unit, data for 2006-2007

<sup>3</sup> California Department of Education, Education Demographics Unit, data for 2006-2007

<sup>4</sup> California Postsecondary Education Commission, 2006 Destinations of High School Graduates

<sup>5</sup> California Postsecondary Education Commission, SAT Data File for 2005 test takers

<sup>6</sup> Metropolitan Transportation Commission, "Commuter Forecasts for the San Francisco Bay Area, 2000-2030", May 2004.

Consortium	2006-07 funding	Director's Proposal		Alternate Proposal		Difference between cuts
		Result	% cut	Alt. result	% cut (Alt.)	
Central Coast	300,000	300,000	0%	255,000	15.0%	-\$45,000
Central Valley	370,000	333,000	10%	314,500	15.0%	-\$18,500
East Bay	673,683	505,262	25%	478,315	29.0%	-\$26,947
Greater Long Beach	300,000	300,000	0%	255,000	15.0%	-\$45,000
Los Angeles	850,000	637,500	25%	603,500	29.0%	-\$34,000
Merced	363,130	326,817	10%	308,661	15.0%	-\$18,157
Northcoast	500,526	390,410	22%	355,373	29.0%	-\$35,037
North Valley	445,650	347,607	22%	334,238	25.0%	-\$13,370
Sacramento	455,834	355,551	22%	341,876	25.0%	-\$13,675
San Diego	1,250,000	937,500	25%	887,500	29.0%	-\$50,000
San Francisco	335,000	301,500	10%	284,750	15.0%	-\$16,750
San Jose	620,511	465,383	25%	440,563	29.0%	-\$24,820
Santa Barbara	642,833	482,125	25%	456,411	29.0%	-\$25,713
Solano	628,000	0	100%	445,880	29.0%	\$445,880
South San Joaquin	366,000	329,400	10%	259,860	29.0%	-\$69,540
South County Gilroy	465,000	362,700	22%	348,750	25.0%	-\$13,950
Total	8,566,167	6,374,755		6,370,176		-\$4,579

**Alternate Proposal:**

- 15% for consortia <\$400K,
- 25% for consortia \$400-600k,
- 29% for >600k