

Exhibit 13

Information Item

Executive Director's report, including California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) Project Directors' report



Executive Director's Report February, 2014

Dear Commissioners,

It is February and we are in the midst of assisting students and their families file their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Dream Act application before the March 2nd deadline. While significant improvements have been made in California on the completion and filing of the FAFSA, barriers still exist in disseminating financial aid information and providing hands-on assistance to students and their families.

Students who are first generation and first-in-their families to enroll in college experience numerous challenges in the completion of the financial aid process. The completion of the application is just the first step in receiving financial aid. The student must submit their grade point average (GPA) or have their high school or college electronically upload the form.

The Commission has taken a number of steps to work with high school districts and county offices of education to submit the required GPA form electronically for all students. Not all high schools submit the GPA for all of their graduating seniors. Some as a matter of policy; others due to lack of staff, only submit a paper form for those seniors who inquire and ask. While the Commission has worked to have the majority of schools and colleges submit their GPAs by electronic means, there are still many schools that do not submit the data for all students electronically. A recent San Diego Union Tribune article highlighted this issue. See the following link: <http://web.utsandiego.com/news/2014/Jan/24/financial-aid-workshops-college-cal-grant-barrera/>. Another related issue is that not all high schools are submitting the GPAs of students who do not possess a social security number. Those students can use the Commission's non-social security number submission process. This process can also be done electronically by all high schools and colleges. The Commission is working to

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communicate the availability of this process and our willingness to provide technical support to make it readily available to all schools and colleges who request it.

First Lady Michelle Obama has recently announced her initiative to increase FAFSA completion as part of her College Access initiative. California is among the top 10 states in the country that have greatly improved FAFSA completion rates. While financial aid is an important component of the college-decision process, the “summer melt” between students being accepted to enroll and the ability to actually enroll, is largely dependent on the student being able to meet all of their college going costs.

The Commission’s Cash for College Program has implemented a follow-up to the application process so that successful FAFSA filers also are informed that they must complete the financial aid process in order to be successfully admitted. If students receive correction notices from the federal processor or their college requests verification of income information, students must respond to these requests for information in order to successfully matriculate.

One of the issues facing Dream Act students is the process of verification of income. Participating Cal Grant campuses are responsible for verifying income information. This issue, as well as coming up with funds (largely indirect costs such as housing, transportation and food costs) are preventing students from enrolling.

A state-funded loan program (that would be matched with institutional funds) is being proposed by the University of California. The vast majority of students applying for the Dream Act are community college and California State University students. This is a policy issue that the Commission should examine to determine what policy actions can be taken to ensure that students can successfully apply and enroll in our public institutions.

COMMISSION PROGRAMS UPDATE

The following is an update of the activities of each of the Commission’s divisions:

❖ Administration & External Affairs Division Update

Accounting

We implemented the State Controller’s Office on-line travel expense claim reimbursement process in February 2014 and provided training to employees who travel and to managers who approve travel expense claims.

Business Services

A new on-line publication ordering system and an in-house fulfillment process to ship publications as requested for the Cash for College workshops and other outreach and training events were launched in January 2014.

This new online ordering system provides the ability to:

- View publications online
- Order publications

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- Receive an email verification when your order is processed
- Receive a tracking number when the order is shipped
- Download publications

Budgets

We are preparing for the Legislative hearings on the Governor's Proposed 2014-15 budget in early March.

Research

We are assisting in the development of the Middle Class Scholarship Program. This includes developing a projection model and award process. We are analyzing research requests in order to provide appropriate data in a timely manner.

Cash For College

Training and Outreach events leading up to the 2014 Workshop Season

Cash for College served as a coordinating partner of the Fall High School Counselor workshops which served more than 2,000 high school counselors.

With grant funding from the Kresge Foundation Cash for College, we partnered with Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC) to provide a unique opportunity to offer a statewide, live "Dreams In Action" virtual training event on December 4. More than 400 financial aid representatives, high school counselors and community members participated.

First Month of 2014 Cash for College workshops

- This year more than 800 workshops are registered, approximately 80 more workshops than in 2013.
- At the writing of this report, with 300 remaining workshops, more than 23,000 students have attended a Cash for College workshop and completed an online exit survey. We expect to serve more than 40,000 students, exceeding the total of 35,000 students served last year.
- Of those students who have attended,
 - 96% are high school seniors
 - 68% attended with at least one parent
 - 63% of students are first in family to attend college
 - 93% said it was worth the effort to attend
 - 74% said the scholarship definitely motivated them to attend the workshop

More than 40 members of the California State Legislature, local and Congressional elected officials have sponsored Cash for College workshops. In addition, many more elected officials have promoted workshops to constituents to receive assistance at Cash for College workshops to apply for Cal Grants and the Middle Class Scholarship.

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New “Follow Up Fridays” Campaign

With grant funding from Kresge Foundation Cash for College, campus financial aid, Commission staff, and regional partners will be conducting online chat hours from 2-5 PM on Fridays beginning February 14 and through June. In February, the topics include “fixing” your FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application, Meeting the Cal Grant deadline, and creating a Cal Grant WebGrants4Students account. Online chats are accessible using desktop, laptop, smartphones and tablets. Chats are targeted to students who attend Cash for College workshops and indicated they’d like more assistance, but will be open to any student needing follow up assistance.

Success Dashboard

We are working with a contractor on the final stages of the development our Success Dashboard with an anticipated implementation date of late February 2014. The Success Dashboard is intended to provide automatically generated progress and performance views of the following data by high school, school district and county.

- FAFSA completion and submissions
- Number of students eligible for federal Pell Grants
- Number of Cal Grant applications submitted and completed
- Number of Cal Grants awarded

The California Success Dashboard is a progress and performance tool that allows high schools, school districts, counties, the state of California and organizations accountable for the outcomes of California students the opportunity to track student financial aid application and awarding, by academic year. The California Success Dashboard is not only a performance tool which will describe how California is doing at this important task, but a progress tool that will show schools how they are progressing in application submissions and completions leading up to California’s state Cal Grant March 2 deadline.

Cal-SOAP

We have processed the Cal-SOAP contract amendments to add funding for the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) Program outreach efforts. Cal-SOAP is working with high schools with middle class student populations and the financial aid staff at the University of California and California State University to provide information on the new program. Special MCS Cash for College workshops are also being conducted.

We are working with the Cal-SOAP project directors and a contractor on the development of a new Cal-SOAP database to be implemented in 2014-15.

Partnership/Data Cost Recovery Proposal

At the November 2013 Commission meeting, College Access Foundation and Ed Trust West expressed interest in obtaining specific Cal Grant data. We have also received requests for data from Stanford University and Harvard University. We have been working with each of these entities to determine the data we can provide and the timeline for doing so given our limited resources. Pulling the data from the Grant Delivery

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System (GDS) requires our information technology staff to query the GDS system to obtain the requested data. Because GDS is a transactional system, using the GDS production environment to extract data is not efficient. There needs to be some review and analysis of the data by program and research staff before the data is provided to another entity. Depending on the data being requested, this review and analysis can be extensive.

For each request, we also have to determine how our data can be released while adhering to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and personally identifiable information laws (PII). Generally, under FERPA, we cannot share data received from an institution without written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. Under PII laws, we cannot share information which can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, such as their name, social security number, biometric records, etc. alone, or when combined with other personal or identifying information which is linked or linkable to a specific individual, such as date and place of birth, mother's maiden name, etc.

The chart below provides a summary of the major data requests we have received and the status of each.

Entity	Description of Request	Status of Request
Ed Trust West	2013-14 high school application (FAFSA and Cal Grant completion and award) data.	The MOU is being finalized and data is expected to be provided in February.
College Access Foundation (CAF)	2012-13 and 2013-14 for CAF scholarship recipients, specific data on Cal Grant applications (FAFSA and GPA) and awards, reasons for students not qualifying for a Cal Grant, and some FAFSA data.	<p>CAF is providing the following for final review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The release statement that the scholarship recipients sign that authorizes their Cal Grant application information to be shared with CAF, and • An MOU that includes the specific data being requested. <p>CAF has agreed to have the 2012-13 data provided within the next couple of months. Upon agreement that the data is satisfactory, the preliminary 2013-14 data will be provided later this spring with final data after the 2013-14 award year ends (December 2014).</p>
Stanford University	Cal Grant and FAFSA data to look at persistence and graduation rates for students in the Cal Grant Program.	<p>Stanford has indicated it will contract with the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) to match data from Cal Grants. The NSC report to Stanford will be stripped of PII data.</p> <p>We are working on an MOU that will identify the specific data to be provided. We anticipate providing data in the spring.</p>

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Entity	Description of Request	Status of Request
Harvard University	2011-12 and 2012-13 Cal Grant data on the students affected by the Cohort Default Rate and Graduation Rate institutional eligibility requirements to analyze the effect of these reforms on student and institutional behavior.	We will follow the same process and timeline as noted above for Stanford.

The Commission also directed staff to determine how we could accept funds to offset our costs of providing extensive data requests, such as those in the chart above. After extensive research and discussion with the Department of Finance, we have concluded that we need statutory authority to create a cost recovery fund to receive funds provided by a private entity and budget authority to spend the funds. We are working with the Department of Finance to obtain appropriate authority in 2014-15.

❖ Strategic Policy, Media and Communications Division Update

National Partnerships

- Google Helpouts: First Lady Michelle Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan partner with Get Schooled and The California Student Aid Commission to pilot the nation’s first one on one, real-time video support Google Helpout sessions during the month of February.
- The Selective Service System

Community Outreach

- Participating in the 2014 Steps to College Steering Committee with the Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento.
- Participated in the Black College Expo Events in Oakland. Scheduled to participate in the Black College Expo in Los Angeles.
- Participated in the North Sacramento Health Fair at Grant High School in Sacramento.
- Participated in the Los Angeles Cash for College University and Career Fair at the Los Angeles Convention Center.
- Developing strategic outreach plan for Middle Class Scholarship.
- Target Excellence
- Team SAGE (Student Athletes Globally Emerging)

State Agencies Collaborations

- The Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education
- CalVets
- Organizing joint e-mail distribution with Covered California and received offer to conduct joint outreach at Cash for College events.

Campus-based Partnerships

- California Tribal College meeting to ensure this newest public institution of higher education for Native American students is Cal Grant eligible.

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- San Diego Unified School District - GPA Upload Project – Working to bring San Diego Unified School District into the CSAC electronic GPA upload program.
- University of Southern California, Rossier School of Education - Collegeology Project – Partnering to present research briefing in the Governor’s Council Room on February 24, 2014. Providing information on ways to incorporate financial aid into online-based computer games for low-income middle school and high school students.
- Working with UC and CSU representatives to conduct joint Middle Class Scholarship.

Nonprofit Partnerships

The Get Schooled Foundation



- Completed the California College Challenge fall 2013 Get Schooled Foundation campaign with the following results:
 - More than 33,000 California students have accounts with Get Schooled and have logged into Get Schooled more than 200,000 times; the average California student has logged into Get Schooled five times.
 - The average age of a California account holder is 17.
 - 60% of the students were female and 40% of the students were male.
 - Account holders are spread across more than 750 California cities.
 - The city with the largest participants was Los Angeles followed by Sacramento, Fresno and Moreno Valley.
- 77 California high schools registered to participate in fall 2013 California College Campaign in partnership with the California Student Aid Commission. A total of 52 schools actually participated. Here are the results:
 - 7,607 12th graders engaged in the campaign
 - 5,019 11th graders
 - 4,703 10th graders
 - 4,873 9th graders
 - 1,270 8th graders
 - Less than 1,000 7th grade and below.
- 7,610 high school seniors submitted college applications
- The largest number of high school student participants were at the following schools:
 - 1,193 students at Jurupa Valley High, Riverside County
 - 1,163 students at Luther Burbank High, Sacramento County
 - 1,043 students at Moreno Valley High, Riverside County
- Get Schooled is a non-profit organization dedicated to using media, technology and popular culture to motivate young people to improve high school graduation rates and empower them to succeed in college. To learn more go to www.getschooled.com.

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National Basketball Association's Sacramento Kings: Community Assist Project



The Sacramento Kings Foundation has “Community Assist” that focuses its core values on Civic Responsibility, Education, Health & Wellness, and Youth & Family.

Cash for College has the opportunity to become one of the Sacramento Kings Foundation community partner organizations, and the California Student Aid Commission has the opportunity to become a statewide partner with the National Basketball Association (NBA) and the Sacramento Kings. The Kings Foundation provides support through increased public awareness through the Sleep Train Arena which seats 17,000; Kings Vision Radio and Online Social Media Networking; charitable giving including in-kind donations, fan experiences, and Kings Employee volunteer program.

Cash for College meets the Kings Foundation's core value of Education. Under Community Assist, the Kings Foundation further incentivizes Cash for College to create awareness about financial workshops and college financial aid by connecting high school students, especially student athletes with, Cal Grants, the California Dream Act, and Middle Class Scholarship, the Chaffee Grant, Pell Grants, Institutional aid, and California's 11 other grant programs.

The California Endowment



We are developing a relationship with the California Endowment to explore ways to expand financial aid outreach to African American and Latino boys in middle and high school through the Sons and Brothers campaign.

Media Interviews

- KCRA-TV – Pre-Cash for College Day interviews with Cal Grant recipient Justin Rose of the NBA Sacramento Kings and with Diana Fuentes Michel.
- Assembly Members Mariko Yamada, Roger Dickinson, Dr. Richard Pan, Ken Cooley in the Call 3 Cash for College Day with Sacramento/Stockton/Modesto NBC affiliate KCRA-TV to promote Cal Grants, the California Dream Act and the Middle Class Scholarship.
- Sacramento Bee/Modesto Bee – Steps to College 2014
- Sacramento Bee – March 2nd Deadline for Cal Grants
- Sacramento Bee – Editorial Board – Steps to College 2014
- Progressive Magazine – CA Dream Act
- CNYU – Chafee Grant
- Davis Media Access – Steps to College 2014
- LA Times – Cash for College
- Chronicles of Higher Education - CDR Manipulation
- Sacramento Bee – Cash for College
- Sacramento Bee – Editorial Page - Middle Class Scholarship

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Social Media

- Twitter: 439 followers
 - Best Mentions: “GetSchooled” Monster Headphone promotion
 - Best Reach: “GetSchooled” Financial Aid Challenge Leaderboard

- Facebook: 860 likes
 - Best Reach: “Financial Aid Application Season is Open”
 - Best Engagement: “1,000 Likes”

Elected Official Workshop Sponsors or Co-Sponsors

Assembly Member Bill Quirk
Assembly Member Cheryl R. Brown
Assembly Member Cristina Garcia
Assembly Member Ed Chau
Assembly Member Freddie Rodriguez
Assembly Member Jim Frazier
Assembly Member Jose Medina
Assembly Member Luis A. Alejo
Assembly Member Matthew Dababneh
Assembly Member Paul Fong
Assembly Member Reginald B. Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
Assembly Member Rob Bonta
Assembly Member Rudy Salas, Jr.
Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva
Assembly Member Steve Fox
Assembly Member Steven Bradford
Assembly Member Susan Bonilla
Assembly Member Susan Talamantes Eggman
Assembly Member Tom Daly
Assembly Member V. Manuel Pérez
Assembly Speaker Elect Toni Atkins
Assembly Member Bob Wieckowski
Assembly Member Ken Cooley
Assembly Member Nancy Skinner
Congressman George Miller
Congresswoman Barbara Lee
Congresswoman Doris Matsui
Congresswoman Gloria Negrete McLeod
Controller John Chiang
Mayor Eric Garcetti

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Elected Official Workshop Sponsors or Co-Sponsors

Senator Bob Huff

Senator Ed Hernandez

Senator Ellen Corbett

Senator Jerry Hill

Senator Loni Hancock

Senator Lou Correa

Senator Mark De Saulnier

Senator Marty Block

Senator Norma Torres

❖ **Legal & Audit Services Division**

Program Compliance

The program compliance auditors have been performing reconciliation audits of all institutions that were determined to be ineligible to participate in the Cal Grant Program during the 2011-12 and/or 2012-13 academic year(s) as a result of failing to meet the cohort default rate and/or graduation rate thresholds found in Education Code section 9432.7(l). Of the 127 ineligible institutions to be audited, 39 reconciliation audits are either in process or completed.

The auditors are also performing fiscal audits of the 2011-12 academic year for all other Cal Grant Program participating institutions; of these, 11 audits are either in process or completed. The most common findings for both the reconciliation audits and the fiscal audits have been the failure by the institution to return interest owed on state funds; failure to maintain state funds in an interest bearing account; and the institution not calculating the interest correctly. As of February 1, 2014, institutions have returned approximately \$4,750 to the Commission.

In November 2013, the program compliance auditors began performing full field audits of Cal Grant participating institutions. To date, the auditors have performed field work at three community colleges, two private four year institutions and a vocational institution. None of these audits is yet final.

Internal Audits

The Financial Integrity and State Manager's Accountability (FISMA) Act of 1983 requires the California Student Aid Commission to submit a report on the review of our systems of internal control and monitoring processes biennially. The Commission's internal auditor performed the risk assessment utilizing questionnaires, risk assessment spreadsheets, prior audits, and interviews with Commission managers. The top risks identified by management related to protection of personally identifiable information, information technology modernization challenges and limitations, and issues related to succession planning/key-person dependency. The FISMA report was submitted as required in December 2013 and the corrective action plan was timely submitted in January 2014.

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❖ Program Administration and Services Division (PASD) Update

2014-15 Cal Grant Award Processing

- High schools and colleges continue to upload and send Grade Point Averages for Cal Grant processing. Staff continues to work with High School Districts to automate the GPA process for their high schools.
- The initial 2014-15 Cal Grant selection process for the High School Entitlement (E1) cycle began mid-February and will continue to run weekly.
- This first award cycle offered preliminary awards to graduating high school seniors and one-year-out high school graduates.
- California Dream Applicants were included in the first run of E1 Cal Grant awards.

New Cal Grant Award Amounts for 2014-15

- The 2012-13 Budget Act passed on June 27, 2012 included provisions in the Education Trailer Bill, Assembly Bill 1476 (Senate Bill 1016) for the Cal Grant program that also changed the new award amounts for eligible private non-profit institutions and for-profit institutions.
- New Cal Grant awards for students attending private non-profit institutions have been reduced to \$9,084 to \$8,056 beginning with the 2014-15 academic year.
- New Cal Grant awards for students attending for-profit institutions will remain at \$4,000 for the 2014-15 year.
- EXCEPTION to the reduction in new awards for students attending for-profit institutions: Students attending eligible for-profit institutions that are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges as of July 1, 2012, shall have the same maximum Cal Grant award as students attending private non-profit institutions.

Cal Grants and Specialized Programs Training and Outreach

- The 2014 webinar schedule was released in January which includes sessions for the first six months of the year. The webinar sessions includes various topics from Cal Grant 101, reconciliation to grade point average submissions.
- Additional Dream Act Application training webinars have been scheduled for high school counselors and financial aid administrators.
- Staff has presented at several local outreach middle school and high school events providing Cal Grant and California Dream Act information.

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Chafee Foster Youth Grant Program

At the November 22, 2013 Commission meeting, the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA) informed the Commission of issues related to the processing of payments to Chafee Grant Program recipients. Individual checks are sent directly to the campus for disbursement. Some campuses may have several students while others have a small number or none. Staff contacted several campuses with a large number of Chafee recipients to identify the issues and found that the current process is working and that there were no issues to report. Through the years, several enhancements were implemented to the Chafee Grant Program, including electronic rosters. Staff will continue to monitor this process and address any issues that are brought to our attention.

❖ **Information Technology Services Division (ITSD) Update**

Dream Act Enhancement Project

Changes to the Dream Act Web-based application were successfully deployed in January that included the 2014/15 application, new skip logic to improve usability and a tabular format that helps an applicant find the applicable sections they need to complete. ITSD's Project Management Office formally closed this project on 2/4/2013 and will publish a final project report (including lessons learned) by March 1, 2014.

Middle Class Scholarship Project

CSAC is working closely with the Contractor to make sure all of business requirements are captured for the enrollment, admission, and payment processes. Currently, the Contractor is developing the importation process to accept the admission and enrollment files from the UC and CSU campuses.

SB70 Project

CSAC staff is currently working on Phase 1 SB70 data collection for 2014. Phase 1 will provide educational institutions a method to upload, validate, and confirm CSAC acceptance of their SB70 data. Phase 1 also includes data reporting Webpage for external stakeholders.

Success Dashboard

CSAC is working on the design requirements to publically display via CSAC's Website the data collected for High School Seniors who applied for FAFSA, Dream Act, and Cal Grant aid.

Cal-SOAP

CSAC has awarded a contract to Estrada Consulting to help in the development of a centralized Cal-SOAP database that will replace their existing stand-alone systems. Requirements gathering are scheduled to begin the week of 2/10/2014.

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2012/13 IT Contracts

Contract	Purpose	Result
Vendor: Stanfield Systems, Inc. Term: 11/1/12-6/30/14 Amount: \$349,899	To provide coverage for maintaining and enhancing the Grant Delivery System for operational purposes during the development of the California Dream Act Application.	The California Dream Act Application enhancements were successfully deployed in January 2014 which included the 2014/15 Dream Act Application, improved usability that included skip logic to speed up the application process
Vendor: Radian Solutions LLC Term: 11/1/12-6/30/14 Amount: \$349,467	To provide coverage for maintaining and enhancing the Grant Delivery System for operational purposes during the development of the California Dream Act Application.	The California Dream Act Application enhancements were successfully deployed in January 2014 which included the 2014/15 Dream Act Application, improved usability that included skip logic to speed up the application process.
Vendor: Stanfield Systems, Inc. Term: 6/28/13-12/30/13 Amount: \$153,450	Upgrade the Grant Delivery System from Oracle 10g to Oracle 11g and to conduct an assessment of the GDS and its applications.	The Grant Delivery System upgrade was successfully completed by 10/31/13. The assessment report was provided on 12/31/13 which suggests that GDS has flaws and vulnerabilities which needs attention. Furthermore, the Contractor recommends that a new GDS system be developed using current technologies.

The following is a matrix which provides a report on the actions taken to implement the actions taken at the November Commission meeting:

	ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION	STATUS UPDATE
1	<p>Commission Meeting Minutes</p> <p>At its November 21-22, 2013 meeting, the Commission approved the minutes of September 19-20, 2013.</p> <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Geioque, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Scott, Siqueiros and McDowell Abstained: Commissioner Asera</p>	<p>The September 19-20, 2013 meeting minutes have been signed by the Secretary.</p>
2	<p>Election of Commission Officers</p> <p>In November, the Commission held the election of the next slate of officers and approved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Arzate as Secretary <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Asera, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Geioque, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Scott,</p>	<p>No action needed.</p>

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	ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION	STATUS UPDATE
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Siqueiros and McDowell</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Beltran as Vice Chair. <i>In Favor: Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Asera, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Scott, Siqueiros and McDowell</i> • Commissioner McDowell as Chairman, by a Roll Call Vote of 7-6. <i>In Favor of Commissioner McDowell (7): Commissioners Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, McDowell, Scott and Siqueiros In Favor of Commissioner Geiogoue (6): Commissioners Anton, Asera, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore and Sawyer</i> 	
3	<p>Presentations on Outreach and Partnerships, including David Rattray, Senior Vice President of Education & Workforce Development, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Julia I. Lopez, President and CEO, College Access Foundation and Arun Ramanathan, Executive Director, and Orville Jackson, Senior Research Analyst, The Education Trust West</p> <p>At its November 21-22, 2013 meeting, the Commission approved moving forward as expeditiously as possible to establish a cost recovery system and report back in January.</p> <p><i>In Favor: Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Doud, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Sawyer, Siqueiros and McDowell Recused: Commissioner Scott Absent: Commissioners Asera, Conley and Moore</i></p> <p>Additionally, the Commission referred to the Strategic Policy and Planning Committee the issue of finding a way to use funding from the College Access Foundation through a Memorandum of Understanding and establishing relationships in a three- to five-year plan with the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, College Access Foundation and Education Trust West, so that the Commission can move forward deliberately and comprehensively to develop a relationship where the Commission can share data in a way that benefits the Commission's programs.</p> <p><i>In Favor: Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Doud, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Sawyer, Siqueiros and McDowell Recused: Commissioner Scott Absent: Commissioners Asera, Conley and Moore</i></p>	<p>For status update, please refer to the Administration and External Affairs Division Update – <u>Partnership/Data Cost Recovery Proposal.</u></p>

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And finally, I would like to welcome Devon Graves, the Governor's appointment as a student Commissioner, as the newest member of the Commission. Welcome Devon, the Commission and its staff look forward to working with you.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Commission's meeting on February 20-21 in Rancho Cordova.

Sincerely,

Diana Fuentes-Michel
Executive Director
1975-1979 Cal Grant B recipient
1979 graduate of Loyola Marymount University and lifetime member of Alpha Sigma Nu
(the National Jesuit Honor Society)

California Student Aid Commission

DATE: February 21, 2014

TO: CSAC Chairman McDowell, Commissioners, Executive Director
Fuentes-Michel and Commission Staff

FROM: Jose Rivas, Lead Project Director

RE: Cal-SOAP Lead Project Director Report, February Commission Meeting

New Lead Project Director

It was a pleasure being introduced as the new Lead Project Director (PD) at the November Commission meeting by Erin Gemar. On behalf of the fifteen Cal-SOAP Project Directors I want to say thank you for your on-going support of our programs and our students. I look forward to serving as the new Lead PD and working with Commissioners and Commission staff.

Financial Aid Outreach: Cal Grant, FAFSA, Dream Act, Cash for College

As in the previous years, Cal-SOAP projects are supporting various financial aid outreach activities, including Cash for College (CFC) events being held throughout the state. Cal-SOAP staff continue to serve as technical experts with our school partners and play a key role by securing volunteers for events, serving as liaisons with local financial aid offices and providing updated information to our high school partners. I will be able to provide further data on our efforts at the next Commission meeting.

In addition to serving as lead for many of the CFC events, Cal-SOAP provides financial aid, FAFSA, Cal Grant and Dream Act collateral materials and training to our partner high schools. For example, at Armijo High School in Fairfield, Cal-SOAP staff provided school counselors with an in-depth Dream Act and FAFSA training. Some of our counselors are not able to attend the regional high school counselor workshops and this type of follow up training helps to answer questions and get counselors on the same page.

Middle Class Scholarship Outreach

Cal-SOAP staff have stepped up to promote the awareness and provide information on the new Middle Class Scholarship (MCS). Many of our Cal-SOAP programs have already reached out to schools beyond those we currently serve and have connected with CSU and UC financial aid offices and financial aid directors about the new scholarship.

Although information and outreach is improving, Cal-SOAP programs are finding that many of our school partners are having questions and are asking for more information about the scholarship. Additionally, we're finding that many of our higher education partners are hesitant to provide significant outreach given the limited amount of information and detail about the scholarship.

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Despite these initial findings, outreach information about the MCS is being well received by our school partners, parent and students. We are working closely with Commission staff to improve the messaging and outreach efforts with our CSU and UC partners.

Database

Project Directors are excited about the new database effort. A team of Project Directors and program staff will be working closely with Commission staff in the development and roll-out of the new database. In particular, we are looking forward to having an updated database that will better meet our needs such as easier and more efficient data entry, better data management, better reporting, and on-line access. We are looking at the database as a tool to better position ourselves and to continue to support our programs.

On-Going Support

Cal-SOAP projects are an amazing source of college access and preparation support to our students, parents, schools and communities. Cal-SOAP Project Directors appreciate and thank Commissioners for the on-going support of our programs and our services. We as PDs understand the unstable nature of public funding and will continue to work with Commission staff so that Cal-SOAP continues to be funded and continues as a college access leader in our communities.