

# Exhibit 7

## Information Item

Executive Director's report

---



### Executive Director's Report April, 2014

Dear Commissioners,

It is Spring and high school students throughout California are making decisions about where they will go to college this fall. The Commission staff has been hard at work processing paper GPAs, appeals and finalizing awards. Beyond the Commission's primary Cal Grant program, the Commission awards grants and processes loan payments on behalf of hundreds of students who rely on our staff to get the job done.

This time of year also finds us preparing for the May Revision process. The Commission staff prepares its revisions of the Cal Grant baseline projections along with the loan assumption programs. The April letter process also includes the submission of our feasibility study report and budget change proposals to update our Grant Delivery System (known as the GDS). Over the last three years, the Commission's information systems and program administration and services staff have experienced numerous Cal Grant programmatic changes during the recession, the implementation of the California Dream Act, and the new Middle Class Scholarship Program.

The GDS system is over 30 years old and has reached its expiration date. It has reached capacity and needs to be updated so that students can directly access their eligibility records. Both students and institutions can be served in a more efficient and timely manner with an updated system. Mobile technology available to students in their banking and financial transactions is an expected standard that the Commission needs to meet to help students finance their education.

# California Student Aid Commission

## COMMISSION PROGRAMS UPDATE

Here below are updates from each of the divisions.

### ❖ Administration & External Affairs Division Update

#### Accounting

We are preparing for the 2013-14 year-end close which is a multi-month project requiring information from staff throughout the Commission to meet the July 30, 2014 deadline to submit financial statements to the State Controller's Office.

#### Budgets

We are monitoring expenditures as the year comes to a close and are preparing to assist accounting with the year-end processes.

#### Business Services

The 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 was launched in January 2014. Information about the new online ordering system was provided during the High School Counselor workshops in October and through notifications sent from our list serve.

Representatives from high schools, school districts, colleges, Cash For College partners, Cal-SOAP, community organizations and legislative offices supporting student completion for the FAFSA deadline ordered materials through our website.

Our mail room staff of two fulfilled over 670 shipments containing 1.2 million documents between December 2013 and March 2014.

Although we have worked with high schools and school districts to electronically submit GPA's, approximately 37,000 paper GPA verification forms were received. In addition to the mail room staff, 12 employees were redirected from Information Technology, Executive, Audits, Accounting, Budgets and Business Services to assist in the opening and inputting of GPA's in late February and early March when the bulk of the paper GPAs were received.

#### Personnel

We participated in training sessions to become familiar with the California Department of Human Resources Exam and Certification Online System (ECOS) which was implemented January 22, 2014, replacing the Online Selection System (OSS). ECOS is an integrated web-based recruiting, tracking, selection, and on-line testing system providing an end-to-end hiring system for California State agencies.

Due to the July 2014 sunset of the leave accounting database (HRIS) currently used by the Commission, conversion to the California Leave Accounting System (CLAS) through the State Controller's Office (SCO), was implemented March 1, 2014. We worked

## California Student Aid Commission

directly with staff at SCO to facilitate a smooth transition. The new system is directly linked to employee records in the main SCO database, and provides Personnel staff with features including:

- Automated posting of accrued benefits and state service
- 5 plus years of history
- On-line update and inquiry
- Audit trail

As noted below, since July 1 of the current state fiscal year, we've processed 32 employees as either new hires or separations (transferring to another state agency, retiring or leaving state service).

| <b>Division</b>                   | <b>New Hires</b> | <b>Separations</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Information Technology Services   | 7                | 4                  |
| Program Administration & Services | 7                | 4                  |
| Administration & External Affairs | 5                | 3                  |
| Legal & Audit Services            | 1                | 0                  |
| Executive                         | 1                | 0                  |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>21</b>        | <b>11</b>          |

### Research

- We are assisting in the development of the Middle Class Scholarship Program. This includes developing a projection model and award process.
- We are reviewing proposed bills and providing fiscal analysis.
- We are preparing the revised projections for submission to Department of Finance for inclusion in the Governor's May Revision of the 2014-15 Budget.
- We are analyzing research requests in order to provide appropriate data in a timely manner.
- We'll be making the following changes to the 2014-15 Cal Grant School Lists:

| <b>Date Released</b> | <b>Number of Schools</b> |                   |              |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
|                      | <b>Eligible</b>          | <b>Ineligible</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| 4/10/2014            | 303 <sup>1</sup>         | 126               | 429          |
| 2/26/2014            | 302                      | 126               | 428          |

<sup>1</sup> Added Heald College - Modesto (00723407).  
This school was previously included on the eligible school list as a location under Heald College – Hayward.

### California Student Opportunity & Access Program (Cal-SOAP)

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

# California Student Aid Commission

## Cash For College

### *Preliminary Results 2014 Cash for College Workshops*

- More than 800 workshops were offered, approximately 80 more workshops than in 2013.
- More than 42,000 students attended, exceeding the total of 35,000 students served last year.
- More than 35,000 submitted online exit surveys, up from 26,000 online exit surveys last year.
- Of those students who attended:
  - 95% are high school seniors
  - 67% attended with at least one parent, providing a total workshop attendance estimate of more than 70,000 people
  - 68% of students are first in family to attend college
  - 94% said it was worth the effort to attend
  - 74% said the scholarship definitely motivated them to attend the workshop

### *Scholarship Process*

To be considered for the Cash for College scholarship, high school seniors had to attend a workshop, complete an exit survey, and apply for a Cal Grant by the March 2 deadline. We will match student participants to the Commission's Grant Delivery System to determine scholarship eligibility. We will then randomly select students from each qualifying workshop to receive the Cash for College incentive scholarship. We are targeting selection and notification of recipients in late April.

### *New "Follow Up Fridays" Campaign*

With grant funding from Kresge Cash for College, campus financial aid, Commission staff, and regional partners will continue to conduct online chat hours from 2-5 PM on Fridays through June. Current topics include "fixing" your FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application, Meeting the Cal Grant deadline, and creating a Cal Grant WebGrants4Students account.

About a dozen financial aid representatives from University of California at Davis, California State University-Humboldt, Los Angeles Mission College, West Hills Community College, the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA), Regional Cash for College directors, and Commission staff have offered financial aid assistance on the chats.

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. About 800 students have opted in to receive follow up assistance text reminders for Friday Chats, hundreds of students have registered for Friday Chats, and overall more than 7,000 students have logged in to the Cash for College page to view tools, resources and get assistance.

# California Student Aid Commission

## *Follow Up Calling Project*

The Cash for College Workshop Management System allows organizers to follow up with students individually, and to track the follow up topics and status of follow up.

This year, two Cash for College regions coordinated calling teams and use of the follow up platform in two key areas of the Inland Empire and the East Bay. Grant funding was used to support these extra efforts to increase FAFSA completion by the state Cal Grant deadline. More than 2,500 students who said they would like more assistance were contacted prior to the March 2 Cal Grant deadline.

92% of Inland Empire students who were contacted received assistance on the FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application. The other topics of assistance included Cal Grant deadline and requirements, taxes, income/assets, and other topics not listed. In the East Bay, more than 70% of students contacted were offered assistance on the FAFSA/Dream Act Application, and the remaining on additional topics.

## *Success Dashboard*

We are working with a contractor on the final stages of the development our Success Dashboard. 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.

## ❖ **Program Administration & Services Division Update**

### Cal Grant Application Counts for 2014-15

- 1,424,208 FAFSA Applications Received by March 2 deadline
- 26,592 Dream Act Applications Received by March 2 deadline
- Approximately 422,000 Total High Schools Grade Point Averages (GPA) Received
  - Paper GPAs – 37,000
  - Electronic GPAs - 151,000

# California Student Aid Commission

- Non-SSN GPAs - 234,000

As indicated above, high schools and districts submitted over 234,000 GPAs through electronic uploads and paper forms using the Non-SSN GPA process. This is an increase from last year's 160,000 count. The Non-SSN GPA process allowed more schools to submit GPAs without using the social security number as a student identifier which reduced high school counselors' time from having to process paper forms.

Approximately 37,000 paper GPAs were received, keyed and processed for the 2014-15 academic year. This was the lowest volume of paper GPAs ever submitted since more schools and districts are using the upload process in WebGrants. This was also the earliest date that all paper GPAs were keyed into the system.

Notifications were sent to students during the week of March 31<sup>st</sup> who filed an on-time FAFSA or Dream Act Application, but no GPA, informing them that they have until May 16 to file a late GPA appeal based on the regulatory 75 day late GPA grace period for late filers.

## 2014-15 Cal Grant Award Processing

- Cal Grant award offers are being processed on a weekly basis. Over 126,000 High School Entitlement (E1) Cal Grant award offers have been processed to date.
- The March 2<sup>nd</sup> Competitive Cal Grant award process is scheduled to run after the Transfer Entitlement process in late April or early May.

## Middle Class Scholarship Program Update

- The first phase of the Middle Class Scholarship Program (MCS) requires the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) campuses to upload their admission files which include newly admitted and continuing undergraduate students into the Commission's WebGrants system. The admission file upload process in WebGrants started on April 1st and will end on April 8th. Through this data exchange, the Commission will determine initial MCS eligibility for projection purposes and send preliminary notifications to potentially eligible MCS students. The student notifications will be sent the week of April 14. Commission staff will continue to work in partnership with the UC and CSU representatives on the next two phases, which are the enrollment file upload and payment process scheduled for release in July and August 2014, respectively.

## Training and other efforts

- New payment and adjustment codes were migrated on March 3, 2014 to the WebGrants system based on the recommendations from the Adjustment codes workgroup. The new codes will allow schools to report more accurate statuses of student attendance, payment and confirmation of eligibility.

## California Student Aid Commission

- Within the first three months of the busy calendar year, staff conducted over 40 separate webinar sessions covering various topics from GPA uploads, Dream Act and Cal Grant 101. Staff will continue offer more webinars to provide continued education, training and guidance in the administration of Commission programs.
- In partnership with the California Department of Education (CDE), staff provided a list of 17,000 High School Entitlement students from the 2013-14 year that still did not certify their high school graduation verification. CDE was able to match the list of students within their database and provide graduation confirmation matches for approximately 13,000 students. The students now have been cleared of this requirement and are eligible for Cal Grant payment. The Commission has notified these students of their new status and the actions they can take to receive their Cal Grant. Staff will continue to work with CDE for future data exchange projects to streamline the process and to remove any additional steps for the student.
- Data exchanges are being discussed with the Student Clearinghouse, as well as continued efforts to increase participation in high school district Cal Grant GPA submission.
- Staff is identifying student populations that may need additional information to assure their full participation in the Commission's programs. For example, to explain to undocumented males that registration with the Selective Service is necessary to participate in the Cal Grant program and receive other state financial aid.

### Customer Assistance Update

- The 2014-15 new application processing began on January 1, 2014. The Customer Assistance unit received over 35,193 calls and responded to over 3,200 emails from January 2, 2014 through March 27, 2014. Approximately 114,000 new WebGrants for Students accounts were created where students accessed their Cal Grant information.

### ❖ **Strategic Policy, Media and Communications Division Update**

#### Legislative Affairs Update

- Commission legislative staff continues to meet with Members and policy staff in the Senate and Assembly on legislation that proposes an impact on financial aid and to discuss the Commission's policy priorities.
- Staff presented legislation to the Strategic Policy and Planning Committee (SPPC). The SPPC's recommendations on legislation will be presented at the April 10 Commission meeting.
- Legislative staff helped organize key pre-meetings with the Chairs and staff of Assembly Budget Sub-Committee #2 (Muratsuchi) and Senate Budget Sub

# California Student Aid Commission

Committee #1 (Block). Executive Director Fuentes-Michel's testimony was well received. In Budget Sub 2 reactions to testimony included strong support from members for increased competitive Cal Grants, but for some, only for the specific purpose of helping the long-term unemployed.

- In Budget Sub 1, the Department of Finance announced it would back fill \$60 million related to Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) issues, Senators asked if the Commission needed additional funds for the upcoming evaluation of the Cal-SOAP program and inquired why the Commission's agency budget has been flat for several years.
- At the Federal level the U.S. Department of Education Negotiated Rulemaking 2013-2014 on the Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 2014 is in process. Input from multiple parties is being discussed and accepted by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE). Legislative staff intends to travel to D.C. for the April 23, 2014 session at USDOE to participate in the negotiated rule making process.
- Under this process, USDOE works to develop a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, or "NPRM," in collaboration with representatives of the parties who will be affected by the regulations. The process provides an opportunity for higher education interests, from consumer advocates to public and private institutions of higher education to business groups, to comment on the initial drafting of proposed rules and regulations.

## Communications Update

### *Executive Offices*

- The California Student Aid Commission, along with the USC Rossier Pullias Center for Higher Education and the Campaign for College Opportunity hosted the Digital Innovation and College Access briefing in the Governor's Council Room.
- The Commission also provided a briefing to the Governor's higher education consultant regarding the Digital Innovation and College Access and the Commission's FAFSA completion efforts with the Get Schooled Foundation.
- The Commission is working with the United States Selective Service System.

### *Community Outreach*

- Participated in the 2014 Steps to College with the Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento
- Participated in the Get Schooled Foundation "Celebrity Principal for a Day" event with Disney star, Zendaya Coleman at Sacramento High School
- Participated in the United Black Student Unions of California 2014 State Leadership Convention in Los Angeles
- Participating in the Yolo County Workforce Investment Board Collaborative with the Office of Congressman John Garamendi
- Participating in the Black Expo Voter Forum and Summit on Education in Sacramento

## California Student Aid Commission

- Working with the Yolo County Office of Education to collaborate on establishing a four (4) county coalition called Northern California ST<sup>2</sup>REAM Alliance: Career Pathway Trust Initiative to focus on high school to career or college transition
- Participated in the Black Youth Leadership Project briefing at the State Capitol
- Developing Public Broadcasting System (PBS) format educational television show for strategic outreach plan for Middle Class Scholarship
- Participated in the Univision/USC Feria on behalf of Commissioner Siqueiros
- Worked with San Jose, San Diego and Sacramento Cal-SOAP Consortia on targeted community projects

### *State Agencies Collaborations*

- ScholarShare
- Board of Equalization: Nonprofit Financial Conference, Commissioner Arzate, Los Angeles
- State Controller's Office Financial Literacy Month event at the State Capitol
- Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education

### *Campus-based Partnerships*

- California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrator's State Capitol Advocacy Day
- University of California (UC) Berkeley Financial Aid and Scholarship Office, Google FAFSA Helpouts Pilot Project
- UC Davis Early Academic Outreach Program, Steps to College & Workforce Collaboration
- UC Davis News and Media Relations Strategic Communications, Middle Class Scholarship
- California State University, Sacramento, University Advancement and Public Affairs, Middle Class Scholarship

### *Nonprofit Partnerships*

- The Get Schooled Foundation
- Ed Trust - West
- National College Resources Foundation
- California Alliance of African American Educators

### *Media Interviews*

- KCRA-TV – NBC – Zendaya Coleman “Celebrity Principal for a Day” at Sacramento High School
- Chronicle of Higher Education – CDR Manipulation
- The Korea Daily – California Dream Act & Tae Kang feature
- Hoy Newspaper – Spanish Language – Latino Students and Financial Aid
- Sacramento Business Journal – Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education Audit Report
- Inside Higher Education – Private Colleges
- San Francisco Chronicle – Electronic GPA legislation
- Sacramento Bee – Electronic GPA legislation
- Sacramento Bee – Steps to College 2014
- Sacramento Bee – More Students Seeking Financial Aid
- UC Davis Aggie – Electronic GPA legislation

# California Student Aid Commission

- Capitol Television News – California Student Aid Commission and its Programs
- Sacramento Bee – Editorial Page – Steps to College 2014
- Center for Investigative Reporting – Cal Grant Eligible and Ineligible Colleges
- Oakland Tribune/Mercury News/Contra Costa Times – Private Colleges

## *Social Media*

- Twitter: 550 followers  
Best Retweets: Zendaya and Trevor Jackson @SacHigh “GetSchooled” Celebrity Principal for a Day” promotion  
Best Reach: Zendaya and Trevor Jackson @SacHigh “GetSchooled” Celebrity Principal for a Day promotion
- Facebook: 926 likes  
Best Reach: “...Counting down to your future...complete your FAFSA or CADA by the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Deadline: FREE Cash for College...”  
Best Engagement: “@DianaDMichel @Zendaya @GetSchooled @SacHigh celebrating winning the California College Campaign”

## ❖ **Legal & Audit Services Division**

### Program Compliance

The program compliance auditors have been performing fiscal 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, 44 fiscal audits are either in process or completed and \$5,268.62 has been returned to the Commission.

The auditors are also performing fiscal audits of the 2011-12 academic year for other eligible Cal Grant Program institutions; of these, 11 audits are either in process or completed. The most common findings for 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; the institution not calculating the interest correctly; and the institution failing to reconcile its Cal Grant funds. As of March 31, 2014, institutions have returned approximately \$4,750 to the Commission.

The program compliance auditors are also performing full field audits of Cal Grant participating institutions. As of March 31, 2014, the auditors have closed 7 audits, issued three draft audit reports and performed field work at an additional three institutions. The most common findings for these audits include: satisfactory academic progress policy does not meet federal standards; renewal unmet need calculated incorrectly; Cal Grant funds not reconciled; eligibility verification not performed; Cal Grant A awards paid on an ineligible program. As a result of these findings, institutions have returned \$227,146.56 to the Commission.

# California Student Aid Commission

## Internal Audits

### **1. FISMA**

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.

On March 26, 2014, the Department of Finance (Finance) informed the Commission that it has accepted the FISMA report and corrective action plan as submitted. Finance's acceptance of the FISMA report and/or CAP means the report and plan meet the evaluation criteria, including an evaluation of whether management was engaged in the risk assessment process and involved in establishing controls, ongoing monitoring, and risk mitigation strategies on an organization-wide basis. The Commission will be required to submit a 6-month corrective action plan no later than June 30, 2014.

### **2. Single Audit**

As part of its annual audit of the State, the California State Auditor (State Auditor) requests Finance to make certain representations regarding the financial operations of the State. To enable the Director of Finance to submit a single representation letter to the State Auditor, agencies are required to submit a representation letter on their operations for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013. Individual agency letters provide the basis for the statewide representation letter to the State Auditor. The due date for the submission of the Commission's management representation letter has not been announced, but the Commission will timely meet this requirement.

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

- ITSD continues to work on the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) for accepting and processing files from UC and CSU institutions. On 04/01/2014, ITSD released a portal where these institutions could send us test files for MCS student eligibility. Later this week the MCS portal will go live to accept real eligibility files for CSAC to determine if these uploaded students meet MCS criteria.
- Cal-SOAP – The contractor continues to work with consortiums and CSAC staff to create an early prototype version of Phase 1 requirements.
- Phases 1 and 2 of SB 70 requirements have been released and CSAC is accepting uploads from post-secondary institutions.

# California Student Aid Commission

- Success Dashboard – We are working with the contractor to define the final Web page design and features.

Here is an update on the actions directed at the last Commission meeting:

|   | ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION  | STATUS UPDATE  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | <p><b>Commission Meeting Minutes</b></p> <p>At its February 20-21, 2014 meeting, the Commission approved the <b>Consent Calendar</b> which included the minutes of October 22, 2013 and November 21-22, 2013, as presented.</p> <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Geiogue, Le Grande, Moore, Scott, Siqueiros and McDowell<br/> <i>Abstained:</i> Commissioner Graves <i>Absent:</i> Commissioners Asera, Doud and Sawyer</p>  | <p>The October and November meeting meetings were signed by the Secretary.</p>   |
| 2 | <p><b>Approval of Contract</b></p> <p>On February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Commission approved the <b>Consent Calendar</b> which included the staff recommendation to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract of up to \$200,000 in 2013-14 with a selected vendor to purchase Oracle Enterprise Licensing.</p> <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Geiogue, Le Grande, Moore, Scott, Siqueiros and McDowell<br/> <i>Abstained:</i> Commissioner Graves <i>Absent:</i> Commissioners Asera, Doud and Sawyer</p>  | <p>The contract is in process.</p>   |
| 3 | <p><b>Consideration of Authorization to Commence Rulemaking Process for the Adoption of Regulations to Interpret and Make Specific Sections 66433.2 of the Education Code Relating to the Cal Grant Participation Institution Data Reporting Requirements Established by SB 70 (Chapter, Statutes of 2011)</b></p> <p>On February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Commission approved the staff recommendation to authorize staff to commence the regulatory process, including drafting proposed regulations and accompanying documents, request that the effective date of the regulations be the date of filing, and authorize staff to take the necessary steps to complete the regulatory process, with the addition of including a public hearing through the Strategic Policy &amp; Planning Committee.</p> <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Geiogue, Graves, Le Grande, Moore, Scott, Siqueiros and McDowell <i>Absent:</i> Commissioners Asera, Doud and Sawyer</p> | <p>Staff is preparing the necessary documents to initiate the rulemaking with the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). Staff will consult with interested stakeholders prior to submitting to OAL to address any concerns raised by stakeholders.</p> |

## California Student Aid Commission

| ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION   | STATUS UPDATE   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>4 Designating Commissioner(s) as Director(s) of the EdFund Board</b></p> <p>At its February meeting, the Commission approved the staff recommendation to designate Commissioners Asera and Graves, and any other subsequently appointed Commissioners, as Director(s) on the EdFund Board of Directors.</p> <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Geiogoue, Graves, Le Grande, Moore, Scott, Siqueiros and McDowell <b>Absent:</b> Commissioners Asera, Doud and Sawyer</p>   | <p>No further action is required.</p>   |
| <p><b>5 Dissolution of EdFund</b></p> <p>At its February meeting, the Commission approved the staff recommendation to instruct the EdFund Board of Directors to commence the dissolution process and to take all necessary steps to effectuate the dissolution of EdFund.</p> <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Geiogoue, Graves, Le Grande, Moore, Scott, Siqueiros and McDowell <b>Absent:</b> Commissioners Asera, Doud and Sawyer</p>   | <p>The EdFund Board of Directors met on February 21<sup>st</sup> and voted to dissolve the corporation, adopt the accompanying resolution, and authorize the EdFund President to prepare the Certificate of Election to Wind Up and Dissolve, and to file and take all necessary steps to effectuate the dissolution of EdFund.</p>   |
| <p><b>6 Institutional Eligibility Appeals for the 2014-15 Academic Year</b></p> <p><u>Marymount California University (MCU)</u><br/>On February 21<sup>st</sup>, the Commission unanimously approved the staff recommendation to grant MCU's appeal and re-instate MCU's eligibility for Cal Grant participation in 2014-15 academic year, based upon application of the criteria established by the Commission previously.</p> <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Doud, Geiogoue, Graves, Le Grande, Moore, Scott, Siqueiros and McDowell <b>Absent:</b> Commissioners Asera, Conley and Sawyer</p> <p><u>National Hispanic University (NHU)</u><br/>On February 21<sup>st</sup>, the Commission unanimously approved the staff recommendation to deny NHU's appeal.</p> <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Doud, Geiogoue, Graves, Le Grande, Moore, Scott, Siqueiros and McDowell <b>Absent:</b> Commissioners Asera, Conley and Sawyer</p> <p><u>Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU)</u><br/>On February 21<sup>st</sup>, the Commission unanimously approved CDU's appeal, subject to the enactment of legislation which clarifies the small cohort default and that staff will work with the</p> | <p>Staff revised the lists on the CSAC website of eligible and ineligible institutions to reflect that Marymount California University is an eligible institution for 2014-15. Marymount is listed as "Marymount College – Palos Verdes," the name under which USED reports the institutional data.</p> <p>National Hispanic University announced that it will cease offering its programs at the end of the 2014-15 academic year.</p> <p>Commission staff is providing technical assistance to representatives of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science on a legislative solution consistent with the Commission's action.</p> |

## California Student Aid Commission

| ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION  | STATUS UPDATE                      |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <p>institution on appropriate language.</p> <p><b>In Favor:</b> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Doud, Geiogue, Graves, Le Grande, Moore, Scott, Siqueiros and McDowell <b>Absent:</b> Commissioners Asera, Conley and Sawyer</p>   |                                    |
| <p><b>7 Consideration of Policy Formulation and Proposals</b></p> <p>On February 21<sup>st</sup>, the Commission unanimously approved the proposed Statement of Policy Priorities.</p> <p><i><b>In Favor:</b> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Doud, Geiogue, Graves, Le Grande, Moore, Scott, Siqueiros and McDowell <b>Absent:</b> Commissioners Asera, Conley and Sawyer</i></p> | <p>No further action required.</p> |

For your information, I have also included a report from the Lead Cal-SOAP Project Director, Mr. José Rivas.

I look forward to seeing you on April 10<sup>th</sup> in Rancho Cordova.

Sincerely,

Diana Fuentes-Michel  
 Executive Director  
 1975-1979 Cal Grant B recipient  
 1979 graduate of Loyola Marymount University, Alpha Sigma Nu (The National Jesuit Honorary Society) member

## California Student Aid Commission

---

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

**FR:** J. Rivas, Lead PD (Cal-SOAP Program Directors)

**DT:** April 10, 2014

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

---

### **Middle Class Scholarship**

Outreach efforts by Cal-SOAP programs reached many new schools, communities, students and parents throughout California. Some of the efforts are highlighted in the Consortium Updates below. Outreach efforts focused on providing information and collateral resources to students and parents about the new Middle Class Scholarship. Additionally, Consortiums provided training and information to both partner school site staff as well as new schools with the supplemental MCS funding. The Lead PD is currently collecting data on this effort and further information/outcomes will be provided.

As mentioned in the February report, many parents, students and high school counselors had limited information and knowledge about the new scholarship but were very appreciative of the effort and information provided. Many of our high school counselor partners had only heard of the MCS and welcomed the additional information Consortiums were able to provide.

### **FAFSA/Dream Act, Cal Grant Outreach and Support**

Consortiums were once again heavily involved in financial aid outreach and support. Financial aid outreach data is currently being collected and was not yet available at the time of this report. Data and outcomes will be provided once information is aggregated.

Several Consortiums have assisted schools and districts with the electronic GPA uploading for all of the district/school seniors. These efforts are proving to have an impact on the FAFSA submission rates for our partner sites and districts. This is a Best Practice that has been replicated at various sites but will need further outreach efforts to encourage and support other schools and districts to implement the effort. We have found that some of our partner counselors needed additional support from Cal-SOAP staff with the process.

In the second year of Dream Act implementation, the application process at partner sites seemed to have gone smoother. Students were able to successfully submit their applications during in-school support activities and at the various Cash for College events. PD's are reporting student acknowledgment of the immediate impact that the Dream Act is having on their education. We encourage to have some of these students to present at a future Commission meeting.

### **Elected Official Outreach**

The financial aid season has been an opportune time to build partnerships with our elected officials. Several Consortiums have been able to connect with their local offices about their districts financial aid events held at school site and community venues. Elected officials and their staffers have supported the events by sending out press releases to the local media as well

## California Student Aid Commission

as by attending Cash for College events. Consortiums will build on these efforts by following up with elected officials to inform and educate local elected officials and their staffers about Cal-SOAP in an effort to further develop our partnerships and collaborative efforts.

### Cal-SOAP Consortium Updates

#### *Central Coast Consortium*

- Thanks to the additional funding from the **Middle Class Scholarship**, the Consortium was able to serve over 1,000 students with FAFSA and Dream Act applications.
- **Congresswoman** Lois Capps is a strong supporter of Cal-SOAP and financial aid for students. Congresswoman Capps attended three of Consortium's **Cash for College** events that drew local media.

#### *San Francisco Consortium*

- For the 2nd year, the Consortium collaborated with the SFUSD to conduct a **Cash for College Kick-Off** event and organize workshops with several high schools in SFUSD.
- The Consortium collaborated with SFUSD, City College of SF, UCSF and the SF Mayor's office to implement the first city-wide initiative event, **Frisco Day**, to target all 12th grade students.
- The Consortium is serving on the planning committee for the annual **NACAC College Fair** scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup> in San Francisco.

#### *Solano County Consortium*

- **MCS** funding allowed the Consortium to support an additional 10 Cash for College Events where students, parents and school counselors were provided with MCS information.
- Consortium assisted Jesse Bethel HS in Vallejo, CA with the **electronic non-SSN upload** for all of the schools seniors.
- The Consortium PD will be working with **Telemundo 48 and the Northern California Hispanic Chambers** of Commerce in their scholarship effort targeting San Jose to Sacramento.

#### *South County Consortium*

- The Consortium succeeded in assisting all 4 of partner K-12 school districts with **electronic uploading of Cal-Grant GPA's** and have officially adopted this best practice Consortium-wide.
- One partner district alone **increased their Cal-Grant completion** by 55%.

## California Student Aid Commission

- **MCS** funding allowed the Consortium to reach 80 miles south of the program's boundaries and added a new Cash for College event. A combined 1,020 people were in attendance at Consortium's 5 workshops.

### *Southern San Joaquin Valley Consortium*

- The Southern San Joaquin Valley Consortium provided **Middle Class Scholarship** outreach to undergraduate students and feeder schools of CSU Bakersfield, CSU Fullerton, CSU San Bernardino, and UC Riverside. 99,702 seniors and undergraduate students received outreach information on MCS through workshops, presentations, school visits, electronic mail, and regional Cash for College events.
- All seniors from Cal-SOAP high schools started and/or completed their **FAFSA or Dream Act** applications. The submission rates ranged from 60% to 89%, with over 50% average increases from previous years. ALL previous year and current year senior student GPAs were submitted electronically before the March 3rd deadline. This was accomplished by organizing Cash for College evening workshops and classroom workshops from January 1st through March 3rd.
- 471 seniors attended **Transfer: Making It Happen!** (TMIH) this year. Prior to the event, all student participants completed the community college matriculation process: admissions application, on-line orientation, assessment exam, and their in-person counseling requirement was cleared by attending TMIH day. TMIH students received priority registration along with their first year student educational plan. Additionally, Cal-SOAP made sure that all students completed their financial aid application by March 3rd.
- 3,000 students in grades 6-12, parents, and educational/community leaders participated in the **College: Making It Happen!** (CMIH) educational forum on March 22, 2014. Over 60 workshop sessions (flyer below with topics) were offered in different tracks: High School, Middle School, English Adults, and Spanish Adults. There were also 60 Resource Fair Vendors representing all systems of higher education and student/family support programs.