

# Exhibit 3

## Information Item

Executive Director's report

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### Executive Director's Report June, 2014

Dear Commissioners,

Above 100 degree temperatures have marked the beginning of summer in Rancho Cordova, as the Commission staff close another academic year and prepare for the beginning of a new one. High school and college graduations remind us of how important the work of the Commission is to the future of our students and to the State of California. College access and affordability remain policy challenges for higher education policy makers. Institutional leaders and Californians who desire to receive a postsecondary education and enter the workforce qualified to enter the workforce and contribute to our society.

As I write this report, the Legislature is hearing the 2014-15 budget in its conference committee. Final legislative and Gubernatorial decisions are yet to be made on the Commission's budget. The Commission staff continues to work with the Administration on issues related to the implementation of the federal regulations regarding state authorization and a student complaint process as well as the approval of a waiver to provide for the recipient of the federal Challenge Grant Access Program funds. There are also several pieces of legislation impacting the federal student loan program, the issue of debit cards and proposed expansion of the Cal Grant program that are consuming our efforts and attention.

Commission staff is looking forward to joining you in Los Angeles at the Variety Boys and Girls Club to plan for the next year. I want to thank Commissioner Arzate for his assistance in hosting this year's strategic planning session. Commissioner Arzate has

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invited student participants from the Variety Club to speak to the Commission about their academic and community service achievements as well as the challenges they face as students. The students have been selected as Cal Grant recipients and are expected to enroll in college this fall.

The Commission will be joined by Senator Kevin De León at our meeting on Friday morning. The Senator has been a leader on improving Cal Grant B award access and will be joining us to talk about his higher education priorities. Senator De León is expected to be elected leader of the Senate on June 16<sup>th</sup>. The Variety Boys and Girls Club is in his district. We look forward to hearing from Senator De León in Los Angeles.

We also may be joined on Friday morning by Los Angeles City Councilman Gil Cedillo, the author of the California Dream Act. Councilman Cedillo has indicated that he may come by if his schedule permits and join us for a brief hello and thank you for the Commission's work in implementing the California Dream Act. Former Senator Cedillo has been a champion of our "Dreamer" students and continues to support efforts to improve their access and success in higher education.

## COMMISSION PROGRAMS UPDATE

Here below are updates from each of the divisions.

### ❖ Program Administration & Services Division Update

#### Competitive Program Update (2013-14 Award Year)

Staff continues to make progress on our efforts to achieve full use of the 2013-14 Competitive Cal Grant awards. As of June 9, 2014, a total of 19,080 (85%) students were paid and 854 Community College Reserve award offers for a total of 19,934 (88.6%) obligated awards. The utilization rate is currently at 25,935 (115.3%) with 2,834 offered awardees on a leave of absence status and 3,167 with other transaction codes. These offered awardees may be eligible to receive their payment during the 2014-15 academic year. Staff will continue to monitor the Competitive Cal Grant award disbursements and communicate with students to ensure that no more than 22,500 payments are processed in the coming academic year.

#### 2014-15 Cal Grant Award Processing

- High School Entitlement Awards Offers – 136,300
- Transfer Entitlement Award Offers – 30,927
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> Competitive Award Offers – 14,203
  - Implemented the new 1,000 point scoring system to establish smaller cohorts to lower the cut-off score and make additional awards in the future, if needed.
- Cal Grant C Applications – Approximately 63,000 students notified to complete Cal Grant C application
- Renewal Award Offers - Set to run by June 20<sup>th</sup>.

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## California Dream Act Update

- 2014-15 Applicant Count – 30,880 (26,682 on-time)
- 6,281 High School Entitlement Award offers
- 1,431 Transfer Entitlement Award offers to date (Transfer Entitlement Verification forms were sent to 30,927 potentially eligible applicants)
- 2015-16 Dream Act Application Update project initiated in early June to make improvements to the on-line application, processing of records and improving the correction process.

## Middle Class Scholarship Program (MCS)

- The MCS project continues to make progress and is on schedule for a 2014 Fall term implementation.
- The next milestone is scheduled for July 1-15 when the UC and CSU campuses will upload student enrollment data into the WebGrants system. CSAC will use the enrollment data to validate MCS eligibility, analyze funding levels and make MCS award offers by no later than August 1.

## Training and Outreach

- Six institutional support webinars are scheduled for summer.
- Assessing additional training delivery methods, including on-demand tutorials.
- Continued partnership with Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC) to address current issues, improve student communication and increase outreach efforts.
- Visited American River College and met with financial aid administrators to discuss needs for improving the delivery of Cal Grant funds to students.

## Specialized Programs

- Chafee Grant Program for Foster Youth – Staff attended annual Chafee Stakeholder meeting held on May 15 in Sacramento. The discussion included modifying the priority selection. The workgroup is also considering having more frequent meetings to pursue other operational priorities such as electronic payments to schools.

## 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 Cash For College Program

- *Cash for College Incentive Scholarships Announced*

The Cash for College incentive scholarships are funded through a continuing commitment by Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC). 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. More than 600 students were selected to receive the \$1,000

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scholarship. The Cash for College scholarship is funded through a continuing commitment by ECMC.

Cash for College regional offices hosted scholarship recognition ceremonies in Sacramento, Los Angeles, East Bay and Bakersfield. In other areas of the state, organizers surprised students in the classroom with the news of their scholarship, or more often they attended school scholarship ceremonies to announce scholarship recipients.

We held a live video event, provided an online process at [www.cashforcollegescholars.com](http://www.cashforcollegescholars.com) and invited students to attend Follow Up Friday chats to assist students in claiming their scholarships. To date, more than 300 scholarships have been claimed. The claiming deadline is Friday, August 1. Students must submit fall class schedules to our Cash for College scholarship office at the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, which will verify enrollment and issue the scholarship funds directly to the students.

- *Follow Up Friday Chats will complete In June*

We are nearing the end of a 5-month chat series of small group and private chats, offered each Friday afternoon from February to June. We will be tabulating results provided through the CollegeWeek Live platform to learn more about student follow up needs, and adjust accordingly for Follow Up efforts in 2015. This project is supported by Kresge grant funding. More than 1,300 students opted in to receive weekly text reminders about the Friday chats.

- *Cash for College workshops hit a record high of 808 workshops*

Later this month, Cash for College will be issuing 2014 *How Did We Do Reports*. The online reports provide current year and 3-year trend data on attendance, student and family demographics, and application and award offer information, by workshop, by region and statewide.

Cash for College regions and advisory partners will meet over the summer for annual program review and to set program benchmarks.

## Partnerships

- The Education Trust – West (EdTrust-West)

Per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), CSAC provided EdTrust-West the 2013-14 application completion rates and Cal Grant award counts for California public high schools. The data was used by EdTrust-West in their February 2014 publication titled, “Doorways to College: Boosting Access to Financial Aid in California.”

- College Access Foundation of California (CAFC)

As outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding with College Access Foundation of California (CAFC), CSAC will engage in a series of data

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exchanges to increased access to the Cal Grant program by studying student level data. The first data exchange transpired on May 6, 2014 with CSAC providing 2013-14 counts on the number of completed applications (FAFSA/Dream Application plus GPA) by high school and the corresponding Cal Grant award offers. The second data exchange is in progress.

- **Stanford University**

Staff has had several meetings with the Stanford University (“Stanford”) researchers to formalize a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the Commission and Stanford on a research project to study the causal impacts of Cal Grant receipt on students’ academic and employment outcomes. The MOU is currently being reviewed by Stanford’s legal counsel and staff anticipates that the MOU will be executed sometime in July. In the meantime, staff is working with the researchers to identify the specific cohorts of students to be included in the research and the data fields necessary for the project.

The Stanford MOU will require two additional MOUs. The first will be with the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) for student completion data. Initial discussions with the NSC have occurred and it is currently the intention of the parties to have an MOU in place with NSC following the execution of the Stanford MOU. One additional MOU may be necessary between the Commission and another entity to obtain the needed employment data. Staff will keep the Commission informed on the progress of this research project.

- **Harvard University**

Staff has had several meetings with the Harvard University (“Harvard”) researchers to discuss another research project aimed at analyzing the effect of the implementation of institutional eligibility standards, namely the cohort default rate (CDR) and graduation rate, on student and institutional behavior.

Staff is working with the Harvard researchers to formalize an Memorandum of Understanding. This MOU is still in its initial stages. However, staff has been able to provide Harvard with some underlying CDR and graduation rate data for institutions in advance of the MOU. Staff has also been working with the researchers to identify the data fields necessary for the project. Staff will keep the Commission informed on the progress of the MOU and project.

## ❖ **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, 48 fiscal audits are either in process or completed and \$35,299.70 has been returned to the Commission.

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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 June 4, 2014, the auditors have closed eight audits, issued three draft audit reports, performed field work at eight institutions and engaged an additional three campuses. 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 \$231,919.56 to the Commission.

## Internal Audits

The Internal Auditor is drafting an Internal Audit Plan and Risk Assessment to be presented at the Commission's next Audit Committee meeting. The Internal Audit Plan and Risk Assessment will be based upon a risk-based approach specific to CSAC operation. The plan will focus on high risk areas and a limited amount of special projects, as available resources permit.

In addition, the internal auditor has continued to make the necessary submissions related to the FISMA and Single Audit as follows:

### **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 Corrective Action Plan (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. This document is being prepared and will be submitted timely.

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## 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 Commission timely submitted its letter on April 16, 2014.

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

#### *Communications Update*

##### Executive Offices

- The California Student Aid Commission launched its annual Arthur S. Marmaduke Award nominations to find California's Outstanding High School Counselor. We reached out to school administrators utilizing the California Department of Education's contact list.
- The Commission is invited to provide keynote presentation in the Travis Federal Credit Union Cal Grants Day Student College and Career Fair.
- Developed and distributed Commission Employee Newsletter with the assistance of the Commission's Personnel Unit.
- Working with Assembly Member Nora Campos' District Office to provide a Cal Grants Workshop to support the needs of students displaced by enrollment in a Cal Grant ineligible campus.
- Working with Assembly Member Shirley Weber's State Capitol Office, the Campaign for College Opportunity, Commissioner Moore, and community organizations to provide a briefing on the Status of the African American Student and Higher Education in California.
- Working with Assembly Member Roger Dickinson's State Capitol Office, Sacramento State University, California State University, and Univision Television on the 2014 Feria de Educación community event.
- Met with Sacramento City Councilmember Allen Warren to discuss ways to increase low-income high school students' direct access to financial aid as a conduit to community college campus enrollment.

##### Community Outreach

- Participated in the 2014 California Alliance of African American Educators (CAAEE) annual planning discussion. Invited to participate in the CAAEE retreat to emphasize FAFSA completion.
- Participated in the Get Schooled Foundation "Celebrity Principal for a Day" event with Glee star, Naya Rivera and E News star, Terrance J at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School.

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- Participated in the Get Schooled Foundation “DJ Dance Party” event acknowledging an over 200% increase in senior FAFSA/CADA completion with Assembly Member Shirley Weber’s District Office at Crawford High School in San Diego.
- Participating in the Yolo County Workforce Investment Board Collaborative with the Office of Congressman John Garamendi, Woodland Community College, UC Davis and Sacramento State University.
- Continuing development of Public Broadcasting System (PBS) format educational television show for strategic outreach plan for Middle Class Scholarship with UC and CSU.
- In discussion with Get Schooled and the non-profit Advertising Council to establish a 2015 California “Pledge to Complete the FAFSA” public service announcement campaign.
- Provided the Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento with videotape shot and pre-produced by CSAC for editing and post-production to complete a 2014 Steps to College feature video production.
- Participated in the Sacramento Convention Center Black Expo.
- Met with representatives from SAFE Federal Credit Union to discuss their financial education on high school campus “Business Academy.”
- Provided materials for the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles’ “2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Empowerment Summit” on May 31, 2014.
- Partnering with Los Angeles Unified School District to publicize the 2014 Marmaduke Award Ceremony.

### White House Collaborations

- Increasing College Opportunity – Student Level FAFSA Initiative
- Increasing College Opportunity – Reach Higher Initiative
- First Lady of the United States and Get Schooled – FAFSA Completion Initiative
- My Brother’s Keeper – African American Boys and Young Men and Higher Education Initiative

### Federal Agencies Collaborations

- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Community Affairs Division, Financial Education – Money Smart for Young Adults.
- Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, Region IX, School Participation Team.
- Selective Service System and their goals in California.

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## State Agencies Collaborations

- State Controller's Office Manage Your Money Week events October 18 – 24, 2014 – San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles.
- Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education to develop cross-agency website access and discuss possibility of the Department of Consumer Affairs utilizing their in-house publishing division to produce the 2015 "Fund your Future" workbook.
- California Department of Business Oversight "Empowering Californians to Achieve Financial Wellness" Resource Fair.

## Professional Association Partnerships

- California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA) Quarterly Newsletter Feature Article. "California Student Aid Commission: 2014 Policy Priorities"
- University of California Student Association, Middle Class Scholarship Media Outreach
- California State University Student Association, Middle Class Scholarship Media Outreach

## Campus-based Partnerships

- CSU San Marcos, California Tribal College, Cal Grant Outreach Eligibility
- UC Berkeley Financial Aid and Scholarship Office, Middle Class Scholarship.
- UC Davis Early Academic Outreach Program, Steps to College & Workforce Collaboration (ongoing)
- UC Davis News and Media Relations Strategic Communications, Middle Class Scholarship (ongoing)
- CSU Sacramento, University Advancement and Public Affairs, Middle Class Scholarship (ongoing)
- UC San Diego, UCTV, Middle Class Scholarship (ongoing)

## Nonprofit Partnerships

- The Get Schooled Foundation
- Th EdTrust West
- National College Resources Foundation
- College Access Foundation
- California African American Superintendent's Association
- The Community College Foundation Serving Education & Community

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- National Basketball Association (NBA) Sacramento Kings Foundation Community Assist Project
- Inland Empire United Way

### Media Interviews

- MTV-TV – Naya Rivera “Celebrity Principal for a Day” at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School
- Broadway World – Naya Rivera “Gets Schooled in South Los Angeles” at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School
- Daily Sundial – California State University Northridge, “Transfer Eligible Students”
- Huffington Post – “Are We Letting Community College Transfer Students Down”
- Huffington Post – “Often Forgotten, Middle Class Students Get a Scholarship All Their Own”
- Los Angeles Times – Middle Class Scholarship, Commissioner Graves
- Aljazeera America – Middle Class Scholarship, Commissioner Graves, Diana Fuentes-Michel
- BuzzFeed.com – California Dream Act
- WUFT News – California Dream Act
- \*Reached out to KTVU, NBC Bay Area, KCRA – regarding Cal Grant Scams news and stories

### Social Media

#### **CSAC Achieved the #1 Tweet for all California State Government on 5/20/2014** **Terrance J and Naya Rivera “Senior Selfie” at Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School – Get Schooled Campaign**

- Twitter: 815 followers  
Best Retweets: #TerranceJ #Nayarivera #SeniorSelfie @ Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School “GetSchooled” Celebrity Principal for a Day promotion  
Best Reach: #TerranceJ #Nayarivera #SeniorSelfie @ Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School “GetSchooled” Celebrity Principal for a Day promotion
- Facebook: 982 likes  
Best Reach: “...Next Steps After Filing Your FAFSA...”  
Best Engagement: “Next Steps After Filing Your FAFSA”
- Change.org – Save Cal Grants campaign (initiated by AICCU)
- FaceBook Ad “Middle Class Scholarship” Campaign

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4,845 Clicks for a total of 5,738,202 Impressions

## ❖ Administration & External Affairs Division Update

### Administration

- We are reviewing the Commission's publication needs for "Back to School" nights at High Schools in order to be prepared for August and September ordering. As the Communications Manager and Program Administration and Services Division staff work on the publication content, we will begin the procurement process and manage the inventory.
- We completed the work in gathering all the excellent nominees for the Arthur Marmaduke Award. This award recognizes the outstanding achievement of one California's high school counselors who has demonstrated exemplary skills in helping students fulfill their dreams of going to college. This year's award winner will be honored at the June Commission meeting.
- We are working with the Department of Finance and the U.S. Department of Education regarding our request to waive the maintenance of effort requirement for the College Access Challenge Grant in order to secure federal funding for the Cal-SOAP, Cash for College and APLE programs in 2014-15.

### 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 (SCO).
- We received a Certificate for Achieving Excellence in Financial Reporting from SCO for the Federal Trust Fund, Student Loan Operating Fund and the Cash for College fund.
- We are working with the Budget staff to prepare a request to augment funding for the Cal Grant program for 2013-14.
- We have a senior accounting officer retiring at the end of the June and completed the hiring process for his replacement.

### Budgets

- We are working with the Accounting staff to prepare a request to augment funding for the Cal Grant program for 2013-14.
- We are analyzing 2013-14 expenditure data to develop the operations budget for 2014-15.

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## Business Services

- We are working with the Department of General Services on the relocation of the downtown office to an Americas with Disability Act (ADA) accessible office, which is at the current location but on the first floor.
- We have completed the transfer of all Commission stored publications from the Service West warehouse to the Department of General Services (DGS) warehouse.

## Personnel

- After consulting with all other Commission units and under the leadership of our Communications Manager, we released our first new employee newsletter on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Based on feedback from staff, it was well received. This monthly newsletter will include categories such as personnel news, links to helpful websites and forms, information on new and departing staff, and news from each unit.
- We developed a new attendance summary form for staff to track time worked, leave time used, and leave balances. We provided training sessions for employees on how to use the new form.
- As noted below, since April 1, 2014 to the present, we've processed 9 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	0	0
Program Administration & Services	3	3
Administration & External Affairs	2	0
Legal & Audit Services	0	0
Executive	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>

## Research

- We continue to assist in the development of the Middle Class Scholarship Program. This includes developing a projection model and award process and assisting with testing.
- We continue to review proposed bills and provide fiscal analysis.
- We are working on various Cal grant data and, once finalized, will post them to our website.

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- We'll be making the following changes to the 2014-15 Cal Grant School Lists:

Date Released	Number of Schools		
	Eligible	Ineligible	Total
6/16/2014	303 <sup>1</sup>	127 <sup>2</sup>	430
4/10/2014	303	126	429

<sup>1</sup> Added Drexel University-Sacramento (00325604).  
 Changed school name from St. Francis Career College-Lynwood to American Career College-St. Francis.

<sup>2</sup> Moved Anthem College-Sacramento (02263101) from Eligible to Ineligible school list since school no longer participating in the Cal Grant Program.

## 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.

Below is an update on the actions directed at the April 10, 2014 Commission meeting. No actions were taken at the May 15, 2014 meeting.

	ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION	STATUS UPDATE
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Commission Meeting Minutes</b></p> <p>At its April 10, 2014 meeting, the Commission approved the minutes of January 23, 2014, as presented.</p> <p><i><b>In Favor:</b> Commissioners Anton, Conley, Doud, Geiogque, Le Grande, Scott and McDowell <b>Abstained:</b> Commissioners Graves, Moore and Sawyer <b>Absent:</b> Commissioners Arzate, Beltran and Siqueiros</i></p>	<p>The meeting minutes will be signed by the Secretary.</p>

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ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION	STATUS UPDATE
<p>The Commission also approved the February 20-21, 2014 minutes, as presented.</p> <p><i><b>In Favor:</b> Commissioners Anton, Conley, Doud, Geiogoue, Graves, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Scott and McDowell</i>  <i><b>Absent:</b> Commissioners Arzate, Beltran and Siqueiros</i></p>	
<p><b>2 Amendments to Governance Policies</b></p> <p>At its April meeting, the Commission approved the amended Governance Policies, as presented.</p> <p><i><b>In Favor:</b> Commissioners Anton, Doud, Geiogoue, Graves, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Scott and Conley</i>  <i><b>Absent:</b> Commissioners Arzate, Beltran, McDowell and Siqueiros</i></p>	<p>As directed by the Commission, staff is revising the Commissioner Orientation Manual to conform to the amended Governance Policies.</p>
<p><b>3 State and Federal Legislation and Issues Affecting Commission Programs</b></p> <p>In April, the Commission adopted the following four positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neutral on AB 1456 (Jones-Sawyer) and Support the assignment of a study to the Student Aid Commission;</li> <li>• Support AB 330 (Chau);</li> <li>• Support Trailer Bill Language: and</li> <li>• Support AB 1976 (Quirk-Silva)</li> </ul> <p><i><b>In Favor:</b> Commissioners Anton, Doud, Geiogoue, Graves, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Scott and Conley</i>  <i><b>Absent:</b> Commissioners Arzate, Beltran, McDowell and Siqueiros</i></p> <p>The Commission also adopted a Support Position on AB 2160 (Ting).</p> <p><i><b>In Favor:</b> Commissioners Anton, Doud, Geiogoue, Graves, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Scott and Conley</i>  <i><b>Absent:</b> Commissioners Arzate, Beltran, McDowell and Siqueiros</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AB 1456 – Commission staff worked directly with the author’s staff, communicated the Commissioners’ concerns, and requested the amendment concerning the role of the Commission in the proposed study. Role language in the bill.</li> <li>• AB 330 – Staff worked with Committee staff on analysis, met with author’s staff, testified in support of bill in the Senate Education Committee (330 - DO Pass, 6-0).</li> <li>• Trailer Bill Language (TBL) – Budget Conference Committee letter was sent to the Governor, Assembly and Senator leaders and staff expressing Commissioners’ support for the Governor’s TBL regarding renewals (and all other items related to the Commission’s budget priorities).</li> <li>• AB 1976 – Commission staff worked directly with the author and staff to secure passage of the bill on the Assembly Floor. Commission staff drafted a fact sheet on Cal Grant Utilization, included information related to AB 1976 in the Budget Conference Committee. (1976 – DO Pass, 74-1)</li> </ul>

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And finally, we look to our meeting in next week in Los Angeles to discuss the future of our Cash for College and Cal-SOAP programs. Our focus for the next fiscal year must include the expected expiration of our Challenge Grant funds. The Commission must determine the path forward to securing funding for our existing programs and the needed expansion in other areas of our State. In addition, there is now an urgency need to complete our request for an updated Grant Delivery System. The GDS is obsolete and must be replaced for the Commission to be able to effectively communicate with students and schools in this new multimedia environment.

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 June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles.

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

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

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

**DT: June 20, 2014**

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

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### **2013-2014 Academic Year**

Cal-SOAP has had a very successful year in both reaching students and parents and supporting our partners and local communities. We are currently collecting service and student data around many of the items listed in this report. Once aggregated, we will be able to share outcome and output data beyond the information provided in this report.

- In Sacramento, approximately 2,500 Cal-SOAP students receive twice a week tutorial support and of these approximately 400 also participate in career exploration workshops.
- In Santa Barbara, our Cal-SOAP program successfully ran an intensive 6-week SAT preparation course that included 3 practice exams. This effort saw an average of 130 point increase for participants.
- In San Francisco, Cal-SOAP supported a total of 19 Cash for College events conducted that reached 17 high schools and 2 community agencies in San Francisco and Daly City. Over 1000 students and over 600 parents attended the events.

### **Preparation for 2014-15**

Continued funding is again a concern for Project Directors as we start the summer. Cal-SOAP Directors and staff will continue to work with CSAC staff and Commission members around this issue and appreciate the support that our programs have received.

As Cal-SOAP's are exiting school sites for the current academic year, we are also beginning preparations for the 2014-2015 program year. Cal-SOAP's throughout the State, despite the funding concern, are planning another year of college access and preparation support services to our students, parents and partner sites. Below are some of the plans that Cal-SOAP's are preparing for in 2014-2015.

- In Solano county, Cal-SOAP will continue to coordinate and facilitate College and Career Clubs at all partner middle schools. Students in these clubs receive weekly college, career and academic themed workshops and speakers.
- In Santa Barbara, Cal-SOAP staff are currently working on a CTE-centric program similar to Transfer Making It Happen. Previously TMIH was presented with CTE information, but recent evaluations have shown that there is a need for a program focusing only on CTE opportunities in the area.
- In Santa Barbara, Cal-SOAP's partnership with Casa de la Raza, the City of Santa Barbara Parks & Rec, the Housing Authority and UCSB is working to bring a series of educational success informational presentations to local area parents.

- In San Francisco, Cal-SOAP (SFCAC) is planning on continuing their participation on NACAC Planning Committee in preparation for the 2015 Bay Area College Fair. SFCAC was the only college access community agency in the planning committee.
- In Solano county, Cal-SOAP staff are planning to continue serving as lead for the Vacaville City-Wide NACAC College Fair held at one of our partner high school sites. This year's fair, now annual event, attracted over 2K student and parents from through Solano and Sacramento county.

### **Middle Class Scholarship**

In the inaugural year for the Middle Class Scholarship, Cal-SOAP's were able to provide a great deal of outreach to new and existing high school partners. This direct service effort to students, parents and counselors provided our programs some insight on the MCS effort from the field and helped to shape our message to our constituents.

- Parents in particular were grateful for the effort although in many cases were asking for more detailed information around the amount of the scholarships their students may be eligible for with the scholarship.
- Counselors at many schools as well as other college access partners had heard about the MCS, but felt that they had very little to no information. A few counselors already had much of the same collateral materials our programs were providing, but generally counselors welcomed the printed collateral materials and training information that we were able to provide.
- Our Sacramento Cal-SOAP's Middle Class Scholarship awareness and outreach reached more than 2,100 parents with information about this new opportunity for college financing, and resulted in nearly 500 more students attending CFC workshops.

### **Partnership and Collaboration**

Cal-SOAP's make a concerted to work with and collaborate with other youth and community service organizations – many are formal members of our consortiums. These efforts have helped our programs to deliver college and financial aid information beyond our school campuses.

- In Solano county, Cal-SOAP is part of a collaborative effort in Vacaville that involves the school district and a local Spanish language church where school, college and financial aid information regularly reaches over 200 Spanish speaking parents with students in our partner middle and high schools.
- In San Diego and Imperial Counties, Cal-SOAP plays a lead role by co-chairing the WACAC/NACAC College Fair that attracts over 8,000 students and parents.
- In Sacramento, a partnership with the GLOW Foundation has provided financial literacy as part of our career exploration curriculum as well as \$35,000 in new scholarship dollars to five local students.
- In Santa Barbara, Cal-SOAP partners with the Orfalea Foundation, the Princeton review, Kaplan Test Prep, UCSB Office of Educational Partnerships and the Early Academic Outreach Program to bring the SAT Preparation program mentioned earlier.

- In San Francisco, Cal-SOAP administrative staff served on planning committee to implement FRISCO Day in May, 2014. The 1 day event brought all college bound high school seniors together to provide them with engaging presentations in preparation for college. All Cal-SOAP Educational Advisors along with high school advisers from its sister TRIO programs were responsible to conduct 1-2 presentations during the event. This event was planned and conducted in collaboration with SFUSD, the SF Ed Fund, and consortium members from SFSU, UCSF and City College.

### **Financial Aid, Dream Act, Cal Grants, and Scholarships**

Financial aid outreach and technical support with FAFSA, Cal Grant, Dream Act and scholarship applications and submissions are a major part of what Cal-SOAP does every year. In the college access field, Cal-SOAP's are seen as the experts in the field when it comes to financial aid.

- Cal-SOAP programs have also been provided a vast amount of scholarships to our students. (San Diego and Imperial Counties: \$348K in scholarships to 180 students; Sacramento: \$1.7M in scholarships to area students)
- Cal-SOAP's are involved and support Cash for College events throughout the State as well as provide additional financial aid support by providing classroom presentation, individual FAFSA/Dream Act assistance at our partner high schools, Parent Nights, etc.
- The East Bay Consortium is often called upon to provide training and information on financial aid by both schools and other college access programs. This last winter, EBC staff provided a team of college advisers from UCB with training and information on the Middle Class Scholarship and general financial aid.
- In Solano county, Cal-SOAP staff provided technical training and support to high schools and assisted counselors at Jesse Bethel High School in Vallejo to do a first ever all-school gpa web upload to CSAC..
- Cal-SOAP in San Francisco, in partnership with its sister TRIO programs and consortium members, have increased the FAFSA Completion Rates and Cal-Grant Web Uptake within the SFUSD and the City and County of San Francisco.

### **New Cal-SOAP Database**

A team of Project Directors have been working with CSAC staff and the consultant on the development of the new Cal-SOAP database. We are anticipating a more modern and updated database from the current ten-year Access database we now utilize. Our hope is this new database will both make our data entry more efficient and allow CSAC staff and Cal-SOAP projects to better utilize student and service data for improved reporting and assessment.

### **Findings from the Field**

One of the benefits of working in the field is the feedback that Cal-SOAP programs receive around the many challenges and issues that our students, parents and schools face around college and financial aid access.

- In San Diego and Imperial Counties: As the federal government is pushing right college, right fit, San Diego and Imperial Counties saw many 12th grade students who were admitted to 4-year California campuses decide to go to a Community College because they could not afford to pay the Intent to Register, Orientation, Housing, or testing fees. These area students who had 0 EFC's but were unable to solve the problem of how to pay advance fees before they go to 4-year campuses in the fall. Each campus, it seems, handles it differently and students were passed around various campus staff without being able to resolve this issue.

### **Student Staff Feedback**

College student staff is a vital part of all of our Cal-SOAP programs. These college students serve as mentors and role models to our student participant. Often, our college student staff attended the same schools that they now support and once graduate serve as our regular program staff. Since tutors are current college students and come from similar backgrounds as our students, tutors are able to provide us feedback so that we can better serve our students.

Following are direct quotes from some our current college student staff:

- "Cal-SOAP has not only helped me grow into a better person but it has let me help students to grow and accomplish the grades they thought they couldn't achieve."
- "Cal-SOAP has taught me so much about myself, people, and life in general. The experience I have gained while working with these students is invaluable and will aid me in every aspect of my future, no matter what I do."
- "Tutoring this last fall helped me become more comfortable speaking in front of my own peers. I thoroughly enjoyed helping middle school students through class lectures and homework. I am glad that I have had the opportunity to work for Cal-SOAP!"
- "I'm proud to be serving as a Cal-SOAP tutor. I now understand the difference one can make by providing a student with the skills and tools to be a successful person. On almost a daily basis I'm able to make a difference directly in a student's academic success, coinciding with consistent student-tutor relationships."