

Exhibit 20

Information Item

Executive Director's report



Executive Director's Report September, 2014

Dear Commissioners,

Commission staff look forward to seeing you at our September 18th and 19th meeting in Rancho Cordova. We have had a busy summer. The Commission has begun its ad hoc committee work. Commissioners will be reporting on their ad hoc progress at our September meeting. The September agenda reflects progress on a number of policy initiatives including a report on state and federal legislation.

At this meeting the Commission will be hearing a presentation on financial literacy. A planned policy hearing on student loan indebtedness is scheduled for the Commission's November 20th-21st meeting.

COMMISSION PROGRAMS UPDATE

Here below are updates from each of the divisions.

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

Cal Grant Award Processing

Entitlement Cal Grant Awards

- As of August 15, 2014, approximately 138,429 High School Entitlement (E1) Cal Grant award offers have been made to new students starting college during the 2014-15 academic year. This is an increase of 5.4% from last year. Over 6,000 of the total E1 award offers were made to Dream Applicants.

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- 32,944 Transfer Entitlement (E2) students were notified on May 16, 2014 to complete the Transfer Entitlement Cal Grant Certification Form (G6) for further eligibility consideration. Of the 32,944 students, 16,799 completed their G6 and 13,883 are eligible for the Cal Grant award.
- The 2014-15 renewal process ran successfully on June 20, 2014. Approximately 242,000 current Cal Grant recipients were eligible to renew their Cal Grants for the 2014-15 award year. The renewal process occurs monthly.
- The 2014-15 Budget was signed on June 20, 2014 and included language to change the Cal Grant B Access award from \$1,473 to \$1,648. This was the first increase in this award in over 12 years. Community college students will benefit most from this award enhancement. The budget bill also cancelled the reduction of the maximum Cal Grant A and the equal tuition portion of Cal Grant B for students attending private non-profit institutions and WASC accredited for-profit institutions, keeping the 2013-14 level of \$9,084.
- The Commission processed the top two percent of Cal Grant B recipients resulting in 1,843 E1 students eligible for both the tuition/fee component along with the access portion in their first year.
- The 2015-16 Grade Point Average (GPA) upload process for high schools and colleges will open in WebGrants on Monday, September 22, 2014. Paper GPA forms will also be available.

Competitive Cal Grant Awards

- The Commission completed the selection of the 2014-15 March 2 Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards on May 19 and notified the students. Applicants with a score of 806 (out of 1000) or above were offered a Cal Grant.
- The 2014-15 September 2 Competitive Award cycle is scheduled for the last week of September. Community Colleges are currently submitting their grade point average records and enrollment files.
- The Commission notified over 65,000 eligible students to complete the Cal Grant C supplement in WebGrants for Students to compete for the 7,761 authorized awards. The Cal Grant C award selection occurred on August 8, 2014 and the eligible students were sent an award notification.

Training and Outreach

- Traveled to American River College and conducted Dream Act Application training for over 50 financial aid professionals representing American River College, Folsom Lake College, Sacramento City College, Cosumnes River College and Sierra College.
- Conducted a webinar titled *“Using the WebGrants System”* which was attended by 13 participants.

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- Attended Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Conference at CSU Sacramento to assist high school students with information about financial aid; estimated close to 200 in attendance. Executive Director Michel participated in the conference as a guest speaker on leadership.
- Senior Program Managers, Bryan Dickason and Tae Kang spoke at the “Back to School Student Success Training: A Learning Community for College Access, Financial Aid and Scholarship Professionals” hosted by the National Scholarship Providers Association and National College Access Network. The training was held in downtown Los Angeles and the UC Berkeley campus on August 13 & 14.
- Participated in Sacramento’s Second Annual Feria de Educación event located at the Sacramento State campus on Saturday, August 23. The event was hosted by Univision, Sacramento State and Assembly Member Roger Dickinson. CSAC hosted one of the many sponsor tables that was staffed by two bilingual PASD employees. The purpose of the event was to promote a college-going culture among the Spanish-speaking community.
- Middle Class Scholarship webinars began on August 25, 2014 to educate and train campus staff and other interested parties.
- The Commission participated in the 2015 Steps to College kick off planning meeting that took place on Wednesday, September 3, at the Mexican Consulate offices.
- 2015-16 GPA Submission Training will start in October and continue through February 2014.
- The CSAC/CASFAA High School Counselors Workshops will be held October 23 through November 14, 2014.

California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP)

Commission staff held an all-day training for Cal-SOAP Project Directors and their staff on the new on-line database, Commission program updates and additional WebGrants training. The training was held on August 28 and 29 at the California Technology Agency to utilize their computer room.

California Cash for College Program

More than 42,000 students attended one of more than 800 workshops offered in 2014. Two-thirds of students attended with at least one parent, 63% whose highest level of education is a high school diploma. The program grew by 19 percent or more than 6,700 students over 2013 results. In 2014 FAFSA/Dream Act Application completion increased at the workshops by 6% over the prior year, likely due to new program requirement of offering workshops in computer-based settings. Cash for College (CFC) served more male students at workshops than in the prior year; however, female attendance increased as well. Commission staff is working with CFC regional coordinators by participating in Strategic Planning in mid-September to set new benchmarks for increases in African American and Latino male student participation.

Follow Up Friday Chats

With the help of Kresge grant funding, Cash for College launched an ***After the Deadline*** initiative called “Follow Up Fridays”. Using the CollegeWeek Live platform, Cash for College piloted three

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hour text chat sessions on 20 Fridays from mid-February to the end of June. More than 5,000 students chatted in questions to a team of Commission staff and Cash for College financial aid contact and regional leads. Messaging to students included meeting the March 3 Cal Grant deadline, following up after the deadline, making a final school choice, creating a WebGrants account, and confirming high school graduation. Live event presentations were also offered using the CollegeWeek Live video event platform to assist Dream Act applicants after the Cal Grant deadline.

2014 How Did We Do (HDWD) Reports:

Financial aid results have been tabulated for Cash for College workshop participants. Workshop, regional and state level reports are available for download for each participating organization with Cash for College online accounts. Looking at the statewide report more than \$188 million in federal and state funding was offered to the 42,200 Cash for College participants who qualified. This is approximately \$28 million more in federal and state aid than offered in 2013.

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

- Completed a final version of the Feasibility Study Report (FSR) to obtain Department of Technology approval for the GDS Modernization Project. Department of Technology has reviewed several times and has provided feedback and edits. Final submittal of FSR is September 5, 2014. Included in the FSR submittal will be costs and detailed project schedule to identify the duration and tasks involved in the GDS Modernization Project.
- ITSD is working on the last two software laps for Middle Class Scholarship. These laps include the payment process and on-line correction screens for the campuses.
- Cal-SOAP software application is in User Acceptance Testing Phase. Training for the Cal-SOAP consortiums is scheduled for August 28 and 29 in Sacramento.
- ITSD has received the software code for Success Dashboard and is currently doing a code review before the testing phase begins on September 2, 2014.
- ITSD has started the work to make the necessary changes for the Dream Act application for the 2015/16 academic year.
- ITSD is working on the changes needed for SB70 to comply with the statute and regulations for this year. The additional data will be made available on CSAC's Website.

❖ **Legal & Audit Services Division Update**

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 156 ineligible institutions to be audited, 47 fiscal audits are either in process or completed and \$62,584.90 has been returned to the Commission. An additional \$18,709 in institutional liabilities was discovered.

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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 August 27, 2014, institutions have returned approximately \$3,444.89 to the Commission.

The program compliance auditors are also performing full field audits of Cal Grant participating institutions for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic year. As of August 27, 2014, the auditors have closed twelve audits, issued two draft audit reports, performed field work at five 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 \$242,415.02 to the Commission and been found to have an additional \$78,767.50 in institutional liabilities.

Internal Audits

The Internal Auditor is drafting an Internal Audit Plan and Risk Assessment to be presented at the Commission's September 2014 Audit Committee meeting. The Internal Audit Plan and Risk Assessment will be based upon a risk-based approach specific to CSAC operations. 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:

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 submitted its required 6-month corrective action plan on June 17, 2014. This corrective action plan was accepted by Finance on August 12, 2014. The Commission will be required to submit an updated corrective action plan by December 31, 2014.

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❖ Strategic Policy, Media and Communications Division Update

Executive Offices

- The Commission launched its internal “CSAC Employee Newsletter.”
- The Commission is invited to provide keynote presentation in the Travis Federal Credit Union Cal Grants Day Student College and Career Fair in Fairfield, California.
- 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.
- Assisted the Office of Congressman Kevin McCarthy regarding constituent issue.
- Distributed via social media “A Wave of College Celebrations” blog.calstate.edu featuring Commissioner Moore.
- Participated in the Chicano-Latino Youth Leadership Program press conference with Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson and Assembly Member Roger Dickinson at the State Capitol and Presentation at Youth Leadership Forum.
- Participated in the Campaign for College Opportunity and Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) “A Bold New Plan: for Higher Education in California” 19-city “listening tour.”
- Discussing Cal-SOAP/CSAC website enhancements.
- Met with ECMC Foundation about College Abacus Net Price Calculator inclusion in the 2014-15 Fund Your Future publication.
- Discussing with Illinois Student Assistance Commission the “B4 College” Alerts Facebook Application that they developed to notify students about incomplete FAFSAs.
- Currently updating and rewriting the Fund Your Future publication.

Community Outreach

- KCRA-TV, Channel 3 – 10 part television series on “College Knowledge” and live “Pledge to Complete the FAFSA” Call-in and On-line event on September 23, 2014.
- Continuing development of Public Broadcasting System (PBS) format educational television show for strategic outreach plan for Middle Class Scholarship with UC and CSU.
- Established a 2015 California “Pledge to Complete the FAFSA” public service announcement campaign.
- Working with the Office of the Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento with Governor Brown’s visit by President of Mexico Enrique Pena Nieto.
- Presented to SAFE Federal Credit Union Student Intern at their High School Student Business Academy: financial aid education on high school campuses.
- Partnered with National College Resources Foundation and Selective Service System to participate in the Inland Empire 66ers minor league baseball game to promote Cash for College to young men of color.
- Working with the District Office of Assembly Member Jose Medina to arrange Cash for College 2015 workshops.

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

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- My Brother's Keeper – African American Boys and Young Men and Higher Education Initiative
- White House Initiative on Hispanics in Higher Education

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.
- The White House, My Brother's Keeper Initiative – 7 California School Districts

State Agencies Collaborations

- State Controller's Office Manage Your Money Week events October 18 – 24, 2014 – San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles.
- Developed cross-agency website enhancements featuring Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education.
- Participating in the annual Native American Day at the State Capitol, Sacramento.
- Board of Equalization, Health, Wealth, and Wellness Conference and Resource Fair, Inglewood.
- Board of Equalization, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) statewide collaboration to support Cash for College workshops.

Professional Association Partnerships

- University of California Student Association, Middle Class Scholarship Media Outreach
- California State University Student Association, Middle Class Scholarship Media Outreach

Campus-based Partnerships

- USC participated in "First in the World" financial aid outreach federal grant application with Rossier School of Education.
- UC Berkeley Financial Aid and Scholarship Office, Middle Class Scholarship.
- UC Davis News and Media Relations Strategic Communications, Middle Class Scholarship (ongoing).
- UC San Diego, UCTV, Middle Class Scholarship (ongoing).
- CSU Sacramento, FERIA with Univision and Assembly Member Roger Dickinson.
- UC Davis Medical Center, Technology Division, Middle Class Scholarship.

Nonprofit Partnerships

- The Get Schooled Foundation
- The Get Schooled Foundation and Univision Initiative
- The Campaign for College Opportunity, The Real Cost of College Webinar
- National College Resources Foundation
- California Association of African American Educators
- United Black Student Unions of California

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- National Basketball Association (NBA) Sacramento Kings Foundation Community Assist Project
- NextEd: The Largest Career GPS College & Career Exploration Program in Northern California

Media Interviews

- Los Angeles Times, Middle Class Scholarship
- Los Angeles Times, Andrea Goodwin: Marmaduke Award Winner
- Channel 58 KLCS-TV, PBS Los Angeles, Andrea Goodwin: Marmaduke Award Winner
- Yahoo.Finance.News, Middle Class Scholarship, Commissioner Graves
- CalDaily –University of California Berkeley, Middle Class Scholarship
- KRON, Channel 4, NBC San Francisco, Middle Class Scholarship
- Inside Higher Ed – California's Participation in the U.S. Department of Education's FAFSA Completion Initiative
- Ed Source – Cal-SOAP & Summer Melt Programs
- Aljazeera America – Middle Class Scholarship, Commissioner Graves, Diana Fuentes-Michel
- Eastside Sun, Opinion Editorial, Commissioner Arzate
- Sacramento Bee, Letter to the Editor, CalVets Post-9/11 GI Bill and For-Profit Colleges
- Fresno Bee, CalVets Post 9/11 GI Bill and For-Profit Colleges
- Visalia Times-Delta, Middle Class Scholarship
- KBAK/KBFX -CBS Radio, Bakersfield, Middle Class Scholarship
- 21stCenturyScholar.org, California Student Aid Commission
- Bay Area News Group, BioHealth/Bryman College
- Fresno Bee, Heald College Eligibility in Fresno
- Chronicles of Social Change, California 2014-15 Chafee Youth Grant awards
- Sacramento Bee, Middle Class Scholarship

Social Media

- Posted Commission Meeting Excerpts on CAstudentaid YouTube and Vimeo Channels
- Participated in White House live tweet session regarding higher education
- Re-launched FourSquare, Instagram, and Pinterest platforms.

Twitter: 939 followers

Highest Impressions: "GetSchooled.com Dashboard" featuring #ArianaGrande #Drake #IggyAzalea #PharrellWilliams (2,027)

Twitter Follower Analytics

Top Cities

28% Los Angeles

15% Sacramento-Stockton-Modesto

14% San Francisco

5% Washington, DC

4% San Diego

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Top Interests

46% Politics and current events
44% Business and news
39% Music
39% Comedy (Movies and television)
32% Movie news and general info
32% Education news and general info
30% Business news and general info
25% Financial aid and scholarships
21% College life
21% College students

Facebook: 1037 likes

Best Reach: “California’s New Middle Class Scholarship Awards Delayed”

Best Engagement: “California’s New Middle Class Scholarship Awards Delayed”

Most Likes/Comments/Shares: “Join Us for the California Student Aid Commission and the Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project (CLYLP) Press Conference

Facebook Follower Analytics

Top Cities

12% Los Angeles (122)
9% Sacramento (98)
3% San Diego (32)
3% San Jose (30)
2% San Francisco & Fresno (equal) (20)

Top Ages

16% 18-24
17% 25-34
14% 35-44
13% 45-54

Both social media platforms include both national and international followers.

❖ **Administration & External Affairs Division Update**

Administration

At the time of this report, we received word that the U.S. Department of Education has denied the Commission’s request to waive the maintenance of effort requirement for the College Access Challenge Grant in order to secure the last year of federal funding (\$14,746,800) for the Cal-SOAP, Cash for College and APLE programs in 2015-16. However, the denial provided for an appeal process should the Governor decide to provide an assurance of future higher education funding increases. The Commission will discuss this item under Exhibit 5.

The Commission launched its online publication ordering system and in-house fulfillment center to process and ship printed materials as requested for the Cash for College workshops and other outreach and training events in January 2014. The site contains materials on the Cal Grant, Dream Act, and Middle Class Scholarship programs, as well as, general outreach materials and our Fund Your Future brochure and online workbook. We continue to review student aid printed materials available to order on the California Student Aid Commission’s Epubs website. We have finalized the Spanish language version of the downloadable Fund Your Future Workbook and have added it to Epubs menu.

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We continue to work and assist our PASD outreach staff with the Cal-SOAP Project Directors on the completion of a single database for the Cal-SOAP program. The responsibility for contract administration support remains in the Administration Division. Administration of the program now is the responsibility of PASD.

Accounting

- We submitted our year-end Financial Statements to the Controller and are continuing our work closing out various accounts from the 2013/14 budget.
- We have successfully submitted new financial reports to the State Controller to ensure accountability for all funds.
- We have added a new staff member to backfill a recent retirement.

Budgets

- We completed a request to the Department of Finance to augment the Cal Grant program as a result of increased projections for fall 2013-14. The request was approved and the Cal Grant program was augmented by over \$24,242,360 million to fund an increase in the number of Cal Grants.
- We are working with the Department of Finance to develop baseline numbers as we begin the new budget process for the 2015-16 year.
- We submitted the Past Year (2013-14) supplementary schedule of appropriation to Department of Finance.
- Budget Staff have completed training with Department of Finance staff on the use of the FI\$Cal system using new templates that upload into **Hyperion**, the new statewide budget/accounting tool adopted to track all state related funding.
- We submitted the initial FI\$Cal base upload template to Department of Finance to populate current service level in Hyperion. Data will be used to create the current service level for Current Year (2014-15) and Budget Year (2015-16).
- We continue to work with the Department of Finance on the 2015-16 Budget Change Proposals (BCPs) which were submitted in early September.

Business Services

- We are working with the GIGA track system to electronically inventory all CSAC property.
- We continue to work with IT to update our electronic publications inventory.
- We have completed and received approval for the CSAC State Purchasing Manual and it is now posted on our website.
- Records Retention Schedules are in the process of being updated. IT is updating their Retention Schedule now.

Personnel

- The 3rd edition of the CSAC employee newsletter will be published September 1st. It will now be generated bi-monthly. Commission staff is encouraged to submit information they would like to see included in the newsletter through a general email box established for Personnel.

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- Training has been scheduled for all supervisors and managers that have not yet attended the required coursework provided by CalHR. The training will ensure CSAC is in compliance with CalHR requirements by July 2015.
- We are in the process of developing a revised hiring process, and are hopeful the completion date will be no later than October 1, 2014. Once the process has been approved by management and finalized, Personnel will provide classroom training to all supervisors and managers on the new procedures.
- As noted below, since July 1, 2014 to the present, we've processed 10 employees as either new hires or separations (transferring to another state agency, retiring or leaving state service).

Division	New Hires	Separations
Information Technology Services	0	1
Program Administration & Services	6	2
Administration & External Affairs	0	0
Legal & Audit Services	0	0
Strategic Policy, Media & Communications	1	0
Executive	0	0
Total	7	3

Research

- With the passage of 2014 Budget Trailer Bill language, we have assisted with technical changes related to the continued development of the Middle Class Scholarship Program.
- We continue to provide support to the Legislative unit on bill cost and population estimates.
- We continue to provide research and forecasting support for data requests.
- We updated and released the 2014-15 Cal Grant School list on June 25, 2014 and there have been no changes since that release.

Date Released	Number of Schools		
	Eligible	Ineligible	Total
6/25/2014	305	126	431

COMMISSION ACTIONS UPDATE

At its June 19-20, 2014 meeting, the Commission conducted a Strategic Planning Meeting. Commission staff is currently working on implementing the plan of action developed by the Commissioners.

Below is an update on the formal actions taken during the Business Meeting portion of the June meeting.

	ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION	STATUS UPDATE
1	Commission Meeting Minutes At its June meeting, the Commission approved the Consent Calendar which included the minutes of April 10, 2014 and May 15, 2014 as presented.	The meeting minutes will be signed by the Secretary.

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	ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION	STATUS UPDATE
	<p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Doud, Geiogue, Graves, Le Grande, Sawyer, Scott, Siqueiros and McDowell <i>Absent:</i> Commissioners Conley and Moore</p>	
2	<p>State and Federal Legislation Affecting Commission Programs</p> <p>The Commission approved the staff recommendation to SUPPORT AB 2099 (Frazier): Postsecondary education: Title 38 awards.</p> <p><i>In Favor:</i> Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Doud, Geiogue, Graves, Le Grande, Sawyer, Scott, Siqueiros and McDowell <i>Absent:</i> Commissioners Conley and Moore</p>	<p>Letters of support for AB 2099 (Frazier) were sent to the author as well as the appropriate policy and fiscal committees.</p> <p>As of August 25, 2014, AB 2099 (Frazier) is on the Senate Floor in the second reading file having successfully passed the Senate Education Committee (6-0/ 6-25-14) and the Senate Appropriations Committee (5-0/ 8-5-14).</p>

Also attached to this report is an update from the Lead Cal-SOAP Project Director, Mr. Jose Rivas of the Solano County Cal-SOAP Consortium.

Finally, I want to welcome to the Commission, two recent staff additions to the Strategic Policy, Media and Communications team, Brandon Biegert and Olgalilia Ramirez. Brandon will be working on communications projects as well as data reporting assignments with senior management and Commissioners. Olgalilia has assumed the legislative representative position and will work with Dr. Angelo Williams in representing the Commission before the Legislature and Administration officials as well as student, financial aid and other organizations who work on student access and affordability issues.

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

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

FR: Jose Rivas, Lead PD (Cal-SOAP Program Directors)

DT: September 18-19, 2014

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

2014-15 Program Year

Funding again continues to be a concern for both Program Directors as well as many of our fiscal agents. Despite the new fiscal year starting in less than a month and the expected late notice from the US Department of Education on California's MOE waiver, programs are continuing to work and move forward with program planning for the 2014-15 year. The latest update that the waiver was not initially granted is a concern. However, PDs are continuing to work closely with CSAC staff as we move forward in the process.

Cal-SOAPs throughout the state have begun their annual preparation to once again re-enter partner schools sites and districts. Programs are starting to bring student staff back on board for the new school year. Continuing staff are being re-hired and new student staff is being recruited and screened. Many of the programs are expecting to begin services in September and are beginning or have already started their fall staff training efforts.

Cal-SOAP Evaluation

A group of Program Directors have been working with CSAC staff (led by Catalina Mistler and Tae Kang) on the Cal-SOAP evaluation. We have been meeting on a weekly basis to discuss the evaluation progress to date and next steps. The evaluation itself has been moved further down the calendar in order to prepare the upcoming BCP and to allow more time to secure an outside writer/evaluator. Data gathering has begun and both CSAC staff and Cal-SOAP PDs have been able to secure initial outcome and output data that can be used for both the BCP and Cal-SOAP evaluation. CSAC staff have collected data from the consortium's Annual Program Plans and Quarterly reports in order to quantify the outreach numbers that Cal-SOAP has achieved. CSAC has also been able to secure FAFSA data from its internal data. Cal-SOAP PDs completed a survey that has identified key areas that show the "value-add" that the consortiums bring to their regions.

Following are some initial findings from the Cal-SOAP PD Survey:

- The Cal-SOAP survey shows that programs have established collaborative relationships with a wide-variety of stakeholders and service providers in their regions with Cal-SOAP having established partnerships with over 100 separate agencies and organizations beyond those listed as formal partners in the Annual Program Plan.
- Cal-SOAP programs have taken on additional roles as trainers and technical experts with partner sites and programs. Specifically, 4 of the 9 Cal-SOAP programs surveyed played a key role in getting schools and districts to do electronic GPA uploads and in some cases it was the first time that the school or district had done the electronic upload. Of the Cal-SOAPs surveyed, 88% also provided financial aid training to counselors and other college access partners on financial.

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- In many of the programs, former student participants have returned to their host program to serve as college student staff and college student staff who have completed their college degree returned to the program as career staff.

Cal-SOAP staff and Program Directors will continue to work with CSAC staff in the on-going program evaluation.

Summer Wrap-Up

Cal-SOAP programs are wrapping up summer activities and programs have started operations and service plans for the 2014-15 school year. Although summer programming varies from consortium to consortium, programs use the summer to prepare for the new academic year, hold the Board of Directors summer meetings, continue with senior follow up and some programs are able to offer more intensive services during the summer as well. At the East Bay Consortium, the program works in partnership with the Oakland Unified School District to implement a Pre-Collegiate Academy (PCA) for Cal-SOAP students. Through PCA students receive intensive math support, take career/technical field trips to local tech/business partners and receive additional college preparation support. The Solano program used part of the summer to follow up with program seniors headed to community college. This summer outreach provided rising community college freshman with additional information and motivation to help their transition to college. In Merced, the Cal-SOAP program held a Career Technical Education (CTE) Summer Program for their Cal-SOAP students. Students took part in a 4-week summer program that provided career exploration, team building and outings to local tech/business partners.

Financial Aid, Dream Act, Cal Grants, and Scholarships

Financial aid outreach and technical support has already started with many of the Cal-SOAP programs throughout the state. As programs are going back into partner schools financial aid nights, Cash for College events and FAFSA activities have started being calendared and planned. Additionally, Cal-SOAP is continuing to support and provide technical assistance to school sites with electronic GPA uploading and to more effectively use WebGrants so that more students successfully submit their FAFSAs and Dream Act applications.

New Cal-SOAP Database Update

As has been previously mentioned, a team of Project Directors and Cal-SOAP staff have been working with CSAC staff and the consultants on the development of the new Cal-SOAP database. Cal-SOAP staff attended the first database training at the end of August and have been able to get an initial preview of the new database platform. The new on-line application will replace the old, Access database that programs are currently using. The new database will go live beginning October 1st and is anticipated to be used for the 2014-15 program year.

Great Stories

- In the Central Coast region, the Cal-SOAP program played a critical role in a Dreamer's student college education. A Dream Act student was dismissed from the Art Institute of California in Santa Monica because she did not qualify for federal and state loans. She was being charged \$10,000 after a two-month stay on campus. With the assistance of the Cal-SOAP Director and the office of Congresswoman Lois Capps the charges were dismissed and a refund was issued.

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- In the San Diego Cal-SOAP, staff has worked with 30 schools over the last 5 years to fund \$2 million in scholarship to students from the region.
- A San Jose Cal-SOAP program alum who graduated from James Lick High School attended UCSC and worked with San Jose Cal-SOAP as a student staff. Recently, the program alum graduated from college and was connected to a job opportunity with a program partner from UC Berkeley where she has been hired to work as college adviser at her alma mater, James Lick High School.
- The East Bay Consortium's Pre-Collegiate Academy, an intensive 5 week summer program for 155 middle school and high school students in Oakland, trains math teachers and college students majoring or minoring in math and science who are considering a career in teaching. These college students co-teach in the summer program. Here's what one co-teacher had to say about his involvement in the program: "Hi Monica, I want to thank you for an incredible summer! The PCA was an amazing experience that has convinced me that teaching is the career I want to pursue. Witnessing the staff's diligent commitment to the program, the involvement of former PCA alumni and the dedication of current PCA students has shown me how significant an impact educators can have on the lives of others. With warm regards, Javier B (Physics major, junior, SFSU)"