

Exhibit 2

Information/Action Item

California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) project directors report

Background

The California State Legislature established the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) in 1978. The Commission is responsible for administering Cal-SOAP. The Commission considers and approves proposed Cal-SOAP projects, and apportions funding to approved projects. Cal-SOAP law requires projects to be designed to increase postsecondary education opportunities for students who are from low-income families, first-generation college students, or students who come from schools or regions with low college eligibility or college-going rates. Among other activities, all of the projects are required primarily to do all of the following: (1) increase the availability of information on postsecondary schooling and work opportunities, and (2) raise the achievement levels of these students so as to increase the number of high school graduates eligible to pursue postsecondary learning opportunities.

A Cal-SOAP project must be operated through a consortium that involves at least one secondary school district office, at least one four-year college or university, at least one community college, and at least one of either a) a nonprofit educational, counseling or community agency, or b) a private vocational or technical school accredited by a national, state, or regional accrediting association recognized by the United States Department of Education.

After approving a Cal-SOAP project, the Commission enters into a contract with the responsible consortium. The Commission staff monitors the activities of the projects through project reports and audits, and, when necessary, takes steps to ensure compliance with contract terms and sound financial practices. In some extreme circumstances in the past, staff has been required to terminate the contract with a Cal-SOAP consortium and shut down the project.

Today, the Commission administers the Cal-SOAP program through contracts with 14 locally governed consortia throughout the state. The governing board of each consortium operating a Cal-SOAP project, working with the consortium's project director, determines the services the project will provide to meet the Cal-SOAP goals and requirements in the context of local community and schools.

Over the years, the Cal-SOAP projects have expanded their role to include providing hands-on assistance in the completion of the FAFSA and Dream Act Application, in order for qualifying students to gain eligibility for federal, state and private student aid. This past year, the Cal-SOAP projects helped the Commission reach out to middle-class high school students and their parents by providing information on the new Middle Class Scholarship Program.

California Student Aid Commission

The staff of the Program Administration and Services Division (PASD) is responsible for overseeing the Cal-SOAP and its activities, and deals directly with the 14 project directors. PASD holds a monthly meeting with all project directors. To facilitate communication, PASD also meets regularly with a lead project director who represents all project directors. The lead project director is responsible for working closely with Commission staff and representing the Cal-SOAP project directors at Commission meetings. Lead project directors in the past have testified at legislative hearings and other events that may call for Cal-SOAP project representation.

New Lead Cal-SOAP Project Director, Nicole Korgie Jackson

This year, Nicole Korgie Jackson, Greater Long Beach, Project Director will be lead project director. We are grateful for Jose Rivas and his leadership this past year serving in the lead capacity.

Cal-SOAP Project Director Update

Nicole Korgie Jackson will make a brief oral presentation at the meeting. Enclosed as Exhibit 2.1 is the written Cal-SOAP Project Director report.

Responsible Person(s): Catalina Mistler, Chief
Program Administration and Services Division

Nicole Korgie Jackson
Lead Cal-SOAP Project Director

**TO: CSAC Chairman Geiogue
CSAC Commissioners
CSAC Executive Director Fuentes-Michel
CSAC Staff**

FR: Nicole Korgie Jackson, Lead PD (Cal-SOAP Program Directors)

DT: January 23, 2015

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

Cal-SOAP Database Update

The Cal SOAP database is functional and being used by PD's to create Quarter 1 Budget Reports for CSAC. The PD's are working with the consultant to iron out remaining issues. This continues to be challenging as projects have a variety of issue priorities. There will ultimately be some aspects of the database that work better for some projects than others, but the consultant is being very responsive and making best efforts to work on all requests to make the database as functional as possible for all projects.

An issue of current priority is the definition of Intensive and General student activities and classification. For many years there was inconsistency amongst projects in how this information was collected, input, and analyzed by our database system. Efforts are being made to align all projects so that best data may be collected to report out statewide efforts and success in provided student services.

Financial Aid Outreach Events and Activities

Cal-SOAP continues to implement financial aid events to assist students in completing the FAFSA and Dream Act Applications. Cal-SOAP also support Cash for College events and Middle Class Scholarship outreach throughout California.

Cash for College Events - Cal SOAP collaborates with schools, districts, political offices, and community organizations to provide dozens of volunteers serving thousand of students across the state. Many Cal SOAP's serve as the Lead Organizer in charge of virtually all C4C events in large portions of the state. San Diego Cal SOAP the lead of 16 of the 18 C4C events in San Diego County and the Lead Organizer of the one C4C event happening in all of Imperial County.

MCS Directed Outreach Events

Many Cal SOAP's are responsible for providing Middle Class Scholarship information to students and families outside of their regular service area. This requires developing new partnerships with schools, districts, and staff. This can also involve extensive travel outside of the regular service area.

Comments from Solano Cal SOAP capture the reaction common around the state: "Initial MCS outreach is showing that parents are welcoming of the scholarship news but unfortunately have not heard of the opportunity previously. Messaging from Cal-SOAP has added a stronger motivation/encouragement for parents to complete the FAFSA in addition the general message provided last year."

Other Financial Aid Events

Financial Aid Information Nights - In addition to Cash for College events where families receive one on one assistance with the FAFSA, Cal SOAP also hosts Informational Nights where families learn about aid available (Cal Grant, MCS, Student Loans, etc).

Counselor Trainings - In addition to direct student service, several Cal SOAP's provide financial aid counselor trainings.

- San Francisco organized a Cash For College Kickoff in partnership with SFUSD in Nov. 2014. Attendees included all high school/college counselors in SFUSD and community-based college access programs Attendance = 75
- Long Beach hosted a FAFSA Kickoff open to all school counselors, outreach program staff, and community organization staff who needed financial aid training. Attendees included representatives from 5 school districts, 4 colleges, 5 community programs, and 4 outreach programs. Attendance = 75

Additional Consortium Highlights

South County Cal-SOAP

- Ended its eleventh year in operation with 2933 participants and maintained above a 90% college-going rate for the seventh consecutive year
- 10th annual College Fair had over 1300 visitors and saw an increase in middle school age participants.
- Cal-SOAP students outperform their peers in A-G completion by a range of approximately 25%.

Santa Barbara Cal SOAP

- Hosted 10th Annual AB 540 College Night (<http://ab540coalition.org/collegenight.php>)
- Began providing parent-engagement workshops called "Avanzando Juntos/ Moving Forward Together"