

## Item 4

### Information Item

#### California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) Project Directors Report

---

##### **SUMMARY:**

This Item provides a report prepared by the lead California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) Project Director, updating Cal-SOAP's activities and services for the current fiscal year. The report is attached as Attachment 4.1.

##### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Project Director's Report will continue to provide Cal-SOAP information for the 2016-17 year at future Commission meetings.

##### **BRIEF HISTORY OF KEY ISSUE(S):**

The California State Legislature established the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) in 1978. The Cal-SOAP program consists of regional consortia of K-12 schools, postsecondary institutions and non-profit and community-based organizations whose aim is to increase postsecondary education opportunities for students who are from low-income families, first-generation college students, who come from schools or regions with low college eligibility or college-going rates.

Today, the program operates through 14 locally governed consortia throughout California. The consortia include:

1. Central Coast – Project Director, Diana Perez
2. Central Valley – Project Director, Ben Reynoso
3. East Bay/Solano – Project Director, Monica Montenegro (East Bay); Jose Rivas (Solano)
4. Greater Long Beach – Project Director, Nicole Korgie Jackson
5. Los Angeles – Project Director, Yicel Paez
6. Merced County – Project Director, Lyalla Dias
7. Northcoast – Project Director, Cindy Porter
8. Sacramento – Project Director, Monica Roberts
9. San Diego and Imperial Counties – Project Director, Linda Doughty
10. San Francisco – Project Director – Emalyn Lapus

## California Student Aid Commission

11. San Jose – Project Director, Sonia Ramos
12. Santa Barbara – Project Director, Joana Romo
13. South San Joaquin – Project Director, Imelda Simos-Valdez
14. South County Gilroy – Project Director, Erin C. Gemar

Each project's governing board consists of representatives from local secondary school districts, community colleges, universities, career technical schools, and community agencies. The governing board of each Cal-SOAP project determines the services based on the college access needs of its local schools and communities. However, the goals of all of the projects are to: (1) increase the availability of information on postsecondary education 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.

Existing law also allows projects to assist community college students in transferring to four-year institutions, to the extent that project resources are available. The projects may also provide assistance to middle school students to help motivate them to prepare themselves for college preparatory courses. These efforts are locally designed to inform students and their parents of the future availability of financial aid resources available should they prepare themselves for postsecondary education and/or training.

The report prepared by the lead Cal-SOAP Project Director is provided in Attachment 4.1.

### **RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):**

Monica Montenegro  
Lead Project Director, East Bay Cal-SOAP

Catalina Mistler, Deputy Director  
Program Administration and Services Division

Steve Caldwell, Senior Manager  
Program Administration and Services Division

### PROJECT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The following information is provided as a summary of current and upcoming Cal-SOAP activities.

#### **2016-2017 Cal-SOAP Contracts and Annual Program Plans**

Cal-SOAP Project Directors and Commission staff are working together to finalize contracts and Annual Program Plans for 2016-17.

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

The East Bay Consortium is administering the \$330,000 funds to update and enhance the Cal-SOAP database. Contract work to enhance the Cal-SOAP database has begun and Cal-SOAP Project Directors and their database staff will continue to collaborate with Commission staff to make sure the necessary enhancements are developed and delivered to build an effective database that will serve consortiums and Commission staff.

#### **Program Operation Updates**

Cal-SOAP operations are going well at all Consortiums. Cal-SOAP projects have been busy with year-end, summer activities and planning for the 2016-17 academic year. Cal-SOAP areas referencing reallocated funds are referring to funds reallocated from the Los Angeles Consortium during the transition to the reestablished Los Angeles Cal-SOAP. Below are some Consortium Highlights:

##### **Central Valley**

Funds that were redistributed for 2015-16 enabled Central Valley to hold a two-week summer residential program which included an SAT Prep Course facilitated by Study Smart Tutors with 29 high school juniors. Students stayed at the Fresno State dorms and ate at the dining hall as if they were college students.

- Students also participated in Team and Leadership Building activities, CTE workshops, UC Insight Questions workshop, Systems of Higher Education workshops, and presentations from CAMP and TRIO programs. During the second week 22 students participated in a week long Southern California college campus tour to eight universities: UCLA, USC, CSULA, UCI, UCSD, USC, CSUSD, and CSUN. Based on the evaluations, students were very thankful and happy they were able to participate in the summer component. None of the students had been to San Diego and now they can decide if they want to apply to these colleges.
- Tutoring: two tutors offered summer school tutoring at our four high schools in Firebaugh, Mendota, Tranquility, and Kerman High School.

##### **Northcoast Consortium**

- Summer activities included tutoring at summer schools for middle and high school students.

##### **Solano**

- Three-week Summer Career Academy for middle school's students in Fairfield: Students received CTE/career awareness workshops and were taken on CTE/career exploration visits. Through the workshops students:

## Attachment 4.1

- Were provided with information on various career fields and the fieldtrips gave students a hands-on, real-world experience in the same career fields they discussed in the workshops.
- Were taken to Muir Woods where they were able explore hiking trails and to speak with Forest Rangers about their job.
- Visited Travis Airforce Base where they were able to see and explore various aircraft and were able to speak to Travis base representatives about Air Force careers and specifically airplane maintenance and mechanical careers.

### Sacramento

- Capital Area Promise Scholarships: Sacramento Cal-SOAP is working with the Sacramento Region Community Foundation to launch the Capital Area Promise Scholarships. The program kicked off with a Summer Institute the week of July 25<sup>th</sup> at Sacramento State University. The Institute included parent panels, financial aid presentations, skills exploration and development, and college planning, and an overall fun campus experience.
- Scholarships:
  - \$300,000 in scholarships next year for 120 students.
  - Focusing on African-American and Latino boys.
  - Expecting 100 students and their parents at the Institute.

### San Diego

Funds that were redistributed from 2015-16 allowed San Diego to provide:

- Test preparation support in Imperial County using the Test Prep Program (SWAG-Students with Academic Goals) for 100 students.
- Summer Melt Activity: Cal-SOAP staff contacted 1,543 high school seniors about fall plans.
- So You've Been Admitted to College Conference: A discussion about next steps with 400 students and 250 parents and educators.

San Diego's regular Cal-SOAP funding allowed San Diego Cal-SOAP to provide:

- Test Prep Program (SWAG) to 150 students in San Diego County
- College trips to UC San Diego, Pt. Loma Nazarene University and San Diego State for 150 students
- I'm Going to College: building a college going culture with 2 elementary schools
- FAFSA workshops to 11th graders to help them with new changes to the application process

### Long Beach

Long Beach staff has spent a busy summer working with students in College Prep Summer Camps including:

- Week of July 11<sup>th</sup>: La Serna, California, Pioneer
- Week of July 18<sup>th</sup>: Renaissance, Firebaugh, Lakewood
- Week of July 25<sup>th</sup>: Lynwood, Santa Fe, Whittier
- Week of Aug 1<sup>st</sup>: CSULB, CSUDH, Operation Jump Start

### South County (Gilroy)

Summer programs included:

- The I'm Going to College program served 365 elementary students with 184 visiting UC Santa Cruz.
- Cal-SOAP Math Circles: 40 students
- Cal-SOAP Reading Circles: 46 students

South County Upcoming Fall Events:

- September 6; Tutoring Begins
- September 10; Annual RevUp Conference
- September 9 & 21; Gilroy High School Financial Aid Parent Night
- October 10 & 20; Cash for College Workshops Begin
- October 10 & 27; Cal-SOAP College Fair @ San Benito High School
- November 11 & December 3; Cal-SOAP College Fair @ Gilroy High School

### East Bay

Funds that were reallocated in 2015-16 funds allowed East Bay Cal-SOAP to provide:

- College trips: 80 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders participated in a So Cal College Tour. Students visited: CSU Channel Island, UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego, University of San Diego, San Diego State, UC Riverside and UCLA.
- Additional College trips: CSU East Bay (50 students); San Jose State (50 students); UC Merced (42 students).
- I'm Going to College program: Invited an additional elementary school and served 110 5<sup>th</sup> graders.
- California Academy of Sciences: 145 students explored science exhibits and learned about science related careers from staff members of the Academy.
  - SAT Preparation: Offered two SAT test preparation courses led by Princeton Review to 50 rising 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- East Bay Regular Cal-SOAP Grant provided:
  - Pre-Collegiate Academy: 145 students. Four-week academic math and college readiness summer program at Merritt College.
  - College Trips: San Francisco State (75 students); CSU East Bay (60 students); St. Mary's College (60 students); San Jose State (60 students); Santa Clara University (60 students); and Sacramento State (75 students).
  - Career Technical Education Field Trips: 145 students toured one of the following companies and learned about careers within different industries: Rolls Royce Engine Services, Zillow, Digicom, Yahoo and Grocery Outlet Headquarters.
  - Speed Networking and Networking Social Events: Our goal is to expose students to as many careers and fields as possible. 50 students and 18 professionals participated. Speed Networking: rising 10<sup>th</sup> graders rotated from professional to professional with a list of questions to ask about their careers and educational path. The Networking Social is a mix and mingle event for rising 12<sup>th</sup> graders.
  - Oakland Promise: East Bay Cal-SOAP is playing a significant role in the work and establishment of Future Centers located at Promise Schools. Future Centers provide college advising to students.

## Attachment 4.1

- East Bay Upcoming Fall Events:
  - College Information Day; October 8, 2016 at UC Berkeley.
  - Cash for College Kick-Off Community Event; October 8, 2016 at UC Berkeley.
  - Facilitating 15-20 additional Cash for College workshops during the fall.
  - Tutoring and College Advising: Beginning in September 2016.

### San Francisco

San Francisco completed two summer programs with their students:

- A month-long College Prep Program conducted in June and held at Mission High School serving 15-20 rising high school seniors.
- A six-week program that included a five week commuter program held at San Francisco State University and a one week residential program held at California State University, East Bay. This program served 45 high school students.

Current activities include interviewing and hiring new student advisors for the 2016-17 academic year.