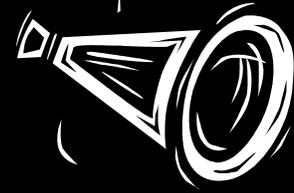


High School Shout Out!



News and Updates for High School Counselors from
The California Student Aid Commission

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA

JUNE 2011



A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIANA FUENTES-MICHEL

On June 15, the California Legislature passed a budget plan intended to close a \$9.6 billion deficit budget. The bill package included deeper cuts to higher education and the courts, a quarter-cent increase to the sales tax, and a \$12 increase to vehicle registration fees.

Key education components included \$3.4 billion in deferred payments to K-12 schools, community colleges and the University of California and \$300 million in additional cuts to University of California and California State University.

As you most likely are aware, on Thursday, June 16, Governor Brown vetoed the budget package, citing that it was "not a balanced solution."

At this time, Cal Grant funding remains intact for fiscal year 2011-12. We will continue to keep you posted on any developments on our website as the budget process develops.

This month we had the pleasure of acknowledging one of your colleagues who has made a significant contribution to students and access to higher education. You will read in this edition about the recipient of the Commission and ECMC's annual Arthur Marmaduke award, Lisa Golden. Selecting just one recipient was a challenging task, and we forward our congratulations to all of you who contributed your personal time and energy this past school year to assure a positive future for students, and for California's future workforce.

Enjoy your summer break!

Diana Fuentes-Michel
1975-1979 Cal Grant B Recipient

High School Graduation Confirmation

High School Graduation confirmation is required for newly selected Entitlement Cal Grant participants. Confirming graduation is the responsibility of the awarded student. However, WebGrants has straightforward ways for high schools to confirm graduation for the student if the school chooses. WebGrants for Students does not allow graduation confirmation until the expected graduation month received with the student's high school GPA. To illustrate, a student whose estimated graduation date is May can confirm their graduation starting in May. Those students whose estimated graduation date is June can confirm their graduation starting in June.

WebGrants for Schools has an on-line report that high schools can use to confirm graduation status for their newly awarded students. Although high school participation is not required, we feel the WebGrants confirmation is simple to use.

In state law, newly awarded Entitlement Cal Grant participants must complete all of their high school graduation requirements before receiving any payments. Those students who do not complete all graduation requirements by December 31 must have their award offer withdrawn. Graduation requirements not only include passing the CAHSEE test for public school students but also completing senior projects, internships, etc. that schools or school districts may require when issuing a full diploma. Those students without a diploma in time for 2011-12 award year Cal Grants can apply again by March 2, 2012 to receive Entitlement Cal Grant award consideration.

CAL GRANT AWARDS UPDATE

As of June 2011, the Commission has offered over 109,000 High School Entitlement Cal Grant awards to eligible students. This award total exceeds the 2010-11 year by over 21 percent.



SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH SERVICES

One good piece of "homework" for students starting their senior year in the Fall is to become familiar with the websites that help locate private scholarships. In addition to governmental sources of financial aid from the federal and state governments, there are a very large number of private grants and scholarships. These require an application separate from the FAFSA.

There are several websites to assist students in locating private grants or scholarships. Students should check as many sources as possible. Scholarship deadlines are generally in the Spring preceding the award year, but some are earlier. Students may want to consider registering for a service prior to entering their senior year.

Many scholarships require a written essay to apply. Developing a college scholarship essay can be intimidating but there is no rule that says you cannot use the same essay or a variation thereof for multiple scholarship applications. Students who produce exceptional essays for class assignments should retain the text for use, if possible, for scholarship essays.

[FastWeb](#) is one of the best sources for national, local and college-specific scholarships with over 1.3 million scholarship listings totaling over \$3 billion. The student completes a survey that asks all about the student. This information is confidential and is not shared with third parties. From the profile that is completed, the student is then sent contact information for scholarships that fit their profile.

There are also for-profit companies that offer scholarship search services for a fee. These companies charge for services that are available free. Generally, it is suggested that students thoroughly investigate any for-profit company before submitting any fees to them. Over the years, many scholarship scams have tried to extract money from students and parents to locate scholarships. Although some for-profit services are entirely legitimate, scholarship scams do occur and students should carefully consider any service charging a fee.

For additional information and resources, refer to the information located at FinAid, <http://www.finaid.org/>. This website contains comprehensive information pertaining to possible scholarship scams.

Arthur Marmaduke Recipient Announced!

Lisa Golden, a counselor and college advisor with the King Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science, was named the recipient of the prestigious Arthur Marmaduke High School Counselor award.

California Student Aid Commissioner Israel Rodriguez (*pictured left below*) and Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) Board member Jack O'Connell (*pictured right below*) presented the award at a ceremony held at the school in Los Angeles on June 14. Ms. Golden also received a resolution from Senator Roderick Wright and Assembly Member Stephen Bradford.

The Arthur Marmaduke award was established by the Commission in 1985 to annually recognize one high school counselor who has demonstrated superior skills, dedication, and results helping students seek and receive financial aid. Arthur Marmaduke served as the Executive Director of the Commission for 25 years, and this honor was created to acknowledge his commitment to assisting students gain access to postsecondary education through the Commission's grant, scholarship and loan assumption programs.

Ms. Golden annually serves more than 300 seniors and a total student body population of 1,600. As a result of her efforts and dedication this past year, over 90 percent of the institution's seniors are attending four year or community colleges and have received over \$9.5 million in merit-based scholarships and university grants.

This year's award was supported by a generous contribution from our partner, [ECMC](#).



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