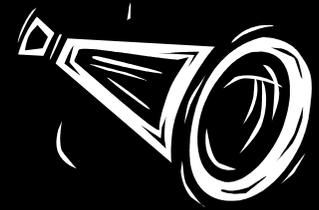


High School Shout Out!



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

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA

JANUARY 2012



A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIANA FUENTES-MICHEL

January not only signifies the beginning of a new year, but a very busy and important time for counselors, students and their families.

The official launch of the 2012 Cal Grant application period has begun at the Commission. Along with internal communications with our stakeholders, the Commission has distributed information to statewide media urging coverage of this important deadline for California low income students. The current budget crisis cannot become a deterrent to the next generation of California's workforce. Now, more than ever, students need to continue their education and training beyond high school to ensure the future prosperity of our state.

Encourage your students not to "opt out", but "opt in"! In addition to Cal Grants, many other types of financial aid are available for college or technical training. All students should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine whether they are eligible for grant and/or loan aid.

This year, we are excited to offer more than 600 Cash for College financial aid workshops in 50 counties throughout the state. As many of you are aware, students and their families can receive one-on-one, multi-lingual assistance with the FAFSA and other financial aid forms. [AB 540](#) students qualifying for private scholarship aid provided by their campus should contact their financial aid office. Further information is provided on the [Commission website](#).

On January, 5, 2012, Governor Jerry Brown released his proposed 2012-13 budget. Commission staff is in the process of reviewing the impact of the changes identified. On January 26, the Commission will meet to analyze the provisions put forward by the Legislature and the Administration. We will keep you informed via our website and through special alerts on any significant developments as the proposal evolves between now and the May revision.

Diana Fuentes-Michel
1975-1979 Cal Grant B Recipient

CASH FOR C//LLEGE

[California Cash for College Workshops](#) are held in January & February of every year up until the Cal Grant March 2 deadline. It's easy: just type in your zip code or your city and any Cash for College workshop scheduled in your area will be listed.



You can also find a workshop using the California Cash for College mobile site on a smartphone!

Students Could Receive a \$1,000 Scholarship!

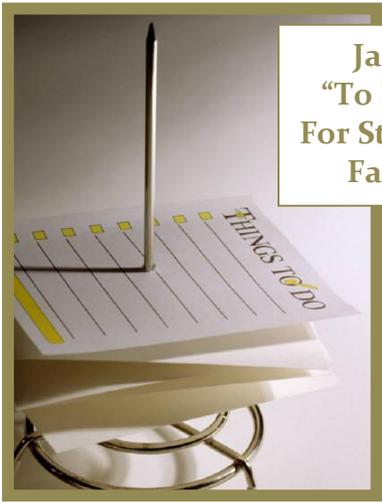
High school seniors who attend a workshop, complete an exit survey and submit the FAFSA and verified Cal Grant GPA by the March 2 Cal Grant deadline may receive a \$1,000 scholarship! Recipients will be selected and notified after the March 2 deadline in late May or early June of 2012. Scholarships must be used beginning in Fall 2012 to pursue an Associate or Bachelors degree at an accredited 2-year or 4-year public or private degree-granting institution in or outside California.



Why I Apply Video Contest!

High school seniors can win up to a \$4,000 scholarship with the [California Cash for College Why I Apply YouTube Video Contest](#). Students can enter to win a scholarship by uploading a video that tells us "Why I Apply" for financial aid, like Cal Grants and Pell Grants, and what they're going to do when they graduate!

The deadline to upload a video is March 2, 2012



January
"To Do List"
For Students &
Families

- Students should meet with guidance counselors to develop college admissions and financial aid application plans.
- Students should plan visits to their top school choices. School tours are helpful, but appointments with faculty, staff, and meetings with current students can provide personal insight into what the student can expect if they attend.
- Research Advanced Placement (AP) or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams.
- Create a folder or electronic record for each potential college.
- This is the season for financial aid information nights and college fairs. Plan on attending a **Cash For College** event. See www.CalGrants.org for an easy guide to locations. Students should include their parents!
- For colleges and majors requiring evidence of talent, now is the time to produce and finalize portfolios, audition tapes and writing samples.
- Students should finalize admission applications. This can include forwarding first semester senior grades and any results from retaken academic tests such as the SAT or ACT. A phone call to the admissions office by the student to confirm the receipt of their application can drive home the idea that the student has a genuine interest in the college.
- Students and parents should spend time researching sources of national or local private grants and scholarships. Scholarships have various filing deadlines that may be significantly earlier than the March 2 Cal Grant deadline. Essays or student portfolios may be required to apply, so time spent researching will ease the crunch later on.
- Watch for early admissions notices which are typically sent December through January.

FAFSA FACTS



START HERE
GO FURTHER
FEDERAL STUDENT AID

FAFSA on the Web Worksheet from www.fafsa.gov

This is a list of the questions that will be asked on the FAFSA and will save time when completing the FAFSA and allow for a less stressful submission process.

Students and parents should apply for their [FAFSA PIN](#) ahead of filing the FAFSA. The application allows persons to apply for the PIN while completing the FAFSA but, ideally, applying ahead of filing allows time for the resolution of any problems that may arise.



Urge Parents to File Their Taxes As Soon As Possible

This will ease the financial aid process. The FAFSA now allows direct transfer of Federal 1040 data from the IRS to the FAFSA. FAFSA financial data which comes directly from the 1040 information has already been "verified" for financial aid purposes and, therefore, will not have to be reconfirmed with the college.

Student Aid Report (SAR)

After filing the FAFSA, students should watch for the e-mail notice indicating that the **Student Aid Report (SAR)** is ready. A sample of the notification appears below:

From: Federal Student Aid (<mailto:FederalStudentAidFAFSA@cpsmail.ed.gov>)
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2010 11:12 PM
To: John Smith
Subject: FAFSA Results - 2010-2011 [Student Aid Report](#)

Dear John Smith,

Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has been processed and the data will be made available to the school(s) listed on your FAFSA. The financial aid office at your school will contact you if additional information is required.

Your [Student Aid Report \(SAR\)](#), which contains a summary of your FAFSA information, is now available for you online. Review your SAR as soon as possible to see if any additional information or corrections may be needed.

Use the link below to view your SAR. You can select the link or copy the entire link and paste it into the address or location line of your Web browser. Make sure you copy and paste the entire link; it may appear on multiple lines.

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/FOTWebApp/air/90?key=rmBPycvCUsingPvKxSadblvJt2Kc5m>

If you are an AOL user, click here:

View SAR

If you encounter any problems retrieving your SAR, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov/fac016.htm for assistance.

You may also call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

Thank You,

U.S. Department of Education
Federal Student Aid

Remind students to review the SAR and make corrections as indicated.



Steps to College 2012



The California Student Aid Commission and Cien Amigos, LPC-Proyecto Oportunidad has announced the **Steps to College 2012 Fair (Pasos A La Universidad)** to inform Latino families and students about the expanding opportunities available to earn a college degree. This event is being promoted to residents in over twenty-four Northern California counties (with the exception of the Bay Area).

The community fair will take place on **Saturday, February 4, from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM** at facilities provided by the Sacramento offices of the Mexican Consulate General, 2093 Arena Boulevard (at Truxel Road), just off Interstate 80. Free parking will be available and information booths will be relocated indoors or covered in the event of rain.

Designed to help all Latino families and students navigate a successful path to college, attendees will have a unique opportunity to interact with community leaders and counselors representing distinguished higher education institutions, financial aid experts and community based student and nonprofit personnel.

AB-540 eligible high school seniors who attend la feria could qualify for a **Cash for College** "Dream in Action" scholarship! Students who register can also find out about the Cien Amigos-IME Becas Scholarship Fund for Latino high school juniors, seniors, and current college students.

Throughout the day, attendees will be able to obtain valuable information and resources to secure their pathway to success, among them:

- Bi-lingual assistance with the completion of student aid applications
- Details related to AB 540 eligibility and requirements
- Participation in legal affairs workshops

[Register by clicking here!](#)

fund your future



The complimentary **"fund your future"** publications provide valuable financial aid information for administrators, parents and students. These products are produced in a brochure format and in a more comprehensive workbook in both English and Spanish.

Place orders now at:

https://www.edfund.org/pubs_order/publications.cfm



CALIFORNIA
STUDENT AID
COMMISSION

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