



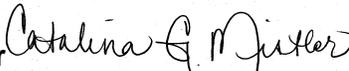
SPECIAL ALERT

Update of the California Student Aid Commission

August 1, 2011

GSA 2011-27

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler 
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SUBJECT: 2011-12 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program Update

This Special Alert provides an update on the federal Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program (Byrd Program).

[GSA 2011-15](#) dated May 5, 2011, provided information on the U.S. Department of Education's (USED) elimination of 2011-12 Byrd Program funding. The USED has provided the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) with guidance on how to proceed with students who are current recipients of the Byrd Program and has informed the Commission to use any remaining fiscal year 2010 funds to benefit college senior recipients for the 2011-12 fall term.

Based on current remaining Byrd Program funding levels, the Commission anticipates that there may be sufficient funds available to make a reduced 2011-12 fall term award to these college seniors. Unfortunately, there are not sufficient funds available for winter and spring 2011-12 terms. Commission staff will determine the fall award amount after it reconciles all 2010 unexpended funds and will inform the recipients and the institutions of the awards.

As part of the Byrd operational agreement with the USED, the Commission is required to certify that program recipient and award data collected from institutions correctly reflects the Commission's program position at the close of each academic year. To meet the USED's directive, please promptly return any Byrd Program funds not yet processed due to a participant's non-enrollment during the 2010-11 academic year. The Commission will contact the non-enrolled participants to verify their eligibility for payment. The deadline to return the unused funds is **August 30, 2011**.

Your cooperation in the prompt return of the unused Byrd Program funds will facilitate the Commission to fiscally close the 2010-11 academic year and meet its fiscal obligation. Also, these returned funds may potentially be used to make additional payments to senior recipients.



State of California
Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

For more information you may contact us at:
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Please return the unused funds to:

California Student Aid Commission
ATTN: Patrick Foley, Robert C. Byrd Coordinator
P.O. Box 419029
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029

If you have any questions regarding this Special Alert, contact Patrick Foley at (916) 464-2590 or at specialized@csac.ca.gov, please include "Byrd" in the subject line.

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!