CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

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New Videos Help Students Apply for Cal Grants, Other Money for College

RANCHO CORDOVA—The California Student Aid Commission and EDFUND, the Commission's student loan services auxiliary, have produced a series of new videos, in both English and Spanish, designed to help students and parents with the process of applying for college financial aid.

The "It All Starts Here: 2004-2005 Fill Out the FAFSA" video -- created for high school teachers, counselors and college financial aid administrators who counsel students and families -- offers step-by-step guidance and useful tips for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) issued by the U.S. Department of Education.

The video is available in three formats: a version specific to California's students and parents, a Spanish-language version specific to California, and a national version. In addition to explaining the FAFSA process, the California and Spanish videos offer information on completing and filing the Commission's 2004-2005 Cal Grant Grade Point Average (GPA) Verification Form, deadline dates and how to submit the forms.

The national version of the video focuses on FAFSA completion, deadlines, submission and processing, and can be used by students in every state.

"In addition, this year we've created a new video in English and Spanish, *Ready, Set, Financial Aid*, for this popular series," said Commission Executive Director Diana Fuentes-Michel. "It's a parent-specific short video that families will find extremely valuable as they

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begin the college application process. It reminds parents of things to do early to insure a successful college application experience for their student, such as making sure their youth has a Social Security number."

Filing both the FAFSA and the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form is how students apply for a Cal Grant. These grants are guaranteed to students with at least a 2.0 GPA who meet certain income requirements. A Cal Grant is free money for college that does not have to be repaid. To obtain a Cal Grant, students must submit the FAFSA and GPA Verification Form between January 1 and March 2.

The videos complement the *Fund Your Future* student financial aid publication series and other materials produced annually by the Commission and EDFUND, and are provided free to schools and community organizations as a public service.

Schools and colleges may order the FAFSA and financial aid videos several ways from either the Commission or EDFUND:

- Visit the Commission's Web site at *www.csac.ca.gov*, or EDFUND's Web site at *www.edfund.org*
- E-mail orders to *publications@edfund.org*
- Fax an order form to 916.526.8838, the Commission/EDFUND shipping center
- Write to the Shipping center at P.O. Box 419045, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9045
- Call the shipping center hotline at 916.526.7282 for personal service

The individual video order numbers are as follows:
"It All Starts Here" video (teachers, financial aid advisors and high school counselors)
- California/English video, V-13
- California/Spanish video, V-24
- National video, V-14

"Ready, Set, Financial Aid" video (parents)
- California/English video, V-27
- California/Spanish video, V-28

For further information on the many California grant and loan forgiveness programs available to students, visit the Commission's Web site at *www.csac.ca.gov* and the new Cal Grant Web site at *www.CalGrant.org* . Further detailed information about the FAFSA is available at *www.fafsa.ed.gov*.

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The California Student Aid Commission is the state's principal provider of intersegmental statewide grant aid to postsecondary students. Founded in 1955 as the California State Scholarship Commission, the Commission's primary programmatic responsibilities include operation of the Cal Grant program, which will distribute about $662 million to California's college students during the 2003-2004 school year, and several targeted state scholarship and loan forgiveness programs. The 15-member Commission oversees the activities of its nonprofit student loan services auxiliary, EDFUND. The Commission is headquartered in Rancho Cordova, California.

EDFUND, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, is the nation's second largest provider of student loan guarantee services under the Federal Family Education Loan Program. EDFUND offers students a wide range of financial aid and debt management information, while supporting schools with advanced loan processing solutions and default prevention techniques. Operating as an auxiliary corporation of the California Student Aid Commission, EDFUND processes more than $5.5 billion in student loans annually (including consolidation loans) and manages a portfolio of outstanding loans valued at $21 billion. EDFUND is headquartered in Rancho Cordova, California with regional offices located throughout the nation.