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2018 CASFAA Conference, Palm Desert, CA





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California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

**The following is a presentation
prepared for CASFAA's
2018 Annual Conference
in Palm Desert, CA
October 2018**



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California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

The State College Affordability by **Lupita Cortez Alcalá,** **Executive Director**

California Student Aid Commission



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- Financial Aid programs
 - \$2.2 billion in state financial aid
 - 9 active programs (Cal Grant A, B, C; Middle Class Scholarship; Chafee, and smaller programs)
 - 426,000 students served last year
 - 337 institutions participate in delivering state aid to students
- Outreach programs
 - FAFSA completion assistance
 - 1000 Cash for College events in partnership with schools and regional coordinating organizations
 - California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal SOAP)

TICAS STUDY: Class of 2017 Four-Year Graduate's Average Debt is \$28,650

HIGH-DEBT STATES	
Connecticut	\$38,510
Pennsylvania	\$36,854
Rhode Island	\$36,250
New Hampshire	\$34,415
Delaware	\$34,144
New Jersey	\$32,247
Massachusetts	\$32,065
Alabama	\$31,899
Minnesota	\$31,734
Maine	\$31,364

LOW-DEBT STATES	
Utah	\$18,838
New Mexico	\$21,237
Nevada	\$22,064
Wyoming	\$22,254
California	\$22,785
Washington	\$23,936
Arizona	\$23,967
Florida	\$24,041
Hawaii	\$25,125
Tennessee	\$25,252

What Questions Should We Ask About Student Financial Aid?

- Is the amount of money we spend on higher education enough?
- Is student financial aid being spent in the most effective way to help students achieve their educational goals?
- Is student financial aid being fairly distributed?
- Does the existing system of financial aid meet the needs of students today?
- What should the goal of student financial aid be?

The Time Is Now for Financial Aid Reform

- The Century Foundation's report for the Commission
- Community Colleges Board of Trustees are asking for \$1.5 billion augmentation to Cal Grant
- All segments are discussing Cal Grant reform
- Industry organizations such as TICAS are holding discussions
- Legislators are expressing an interest

Commission 2017-18 Highlights

- Cal Grant Reform in progress
- Customer Service Improvements
- Student Expense And Resource Survey (SEARS)
- Race to Submit
- Legislation

Cal Grant Reform Timeline

- Legislative Analyst Office report 2017
- Legislature asks the Commission to provide a report in the spring of 2018
- The Century Foundation prepares the report:
 - Streamlining and reimagining Cal Grant and MCS
- Commission proposes some streamlining
 - Will consider broader proposals at November meeting

What High Schoolers Know About College Affordability

3

What are 9th graders' perceptions of college affordability and their future college-going plans?

- One-quarter of 9th-graders disagreed or strongly disagreed that college was affordable. Two years later, one-third of these students reported the same. In addition, the percentage of 9th-graders who planned to enroll in a bachelor's degree program declined from 51 percent when they were in 9th grade to 45 percent 3 years later, when most students had just completed high school.

Sample Preliminary Award Letter



«STUDENTNAME»
«STREET»
«CITY», CA «ZIP»

«DATE»

Dear «FIRST NAME»,

Congratulations! Based on your hard work and record of academic achievement, you have been preliminarily selected to receive a **Cal Grant**. This scholarship will help you pay for the costs of college, and it does not need to be repaid.

You have shown that you're the kind of person who belongs in college. We've been working hard to help you get there!

Go to **URL-TC** and take the first step!

CSAC ID number: <<CSACID>>

“You have shown that you’re the kind of person who belongs in college. We’ve been working hard to help you get there”

As you research different college options, remember that **the published cost of college is not necessarily the cost for you**, because of financial aid.

Based on the information you listed on your FAFSA, we estimate that you could be eligible for as much as \$[max amount X] in financial aid that would reduce your costs and does not need to be paid back. Below are estimates of the aid you would receive at the colleges you listed if you attend full time. You can learn more about your financial aid options at www.csac.ca.gov/URLCALCULATOR-T3.

Good luck with your applications! You are already on your way to becoming a college graduate!

Sincerely,

Lupita Cortez Alcalá

Executive Director

California Student Aid Commission |

Preliminary Award Letters Chart

ESTIMATED COLLEGE COSTS AND FINANCIAL AID FOR <<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>

	UC Berkeley	UC Santa Barbara	CSU East Bay	CSU Los Angeles	CSU Channel Islands	Berkeley City College	De Anza College	USC	Stanford University	Academy of Art University
Estimated Tuition, Fees, Housing, and Other Costs	\$28,240	\$33,604	\$22,427	\$25,642	\$24,472	\$7,484	\$19,864	<i>not available</i>	<i>not available</i>	<i>not available</i>
Living situation	with parents	on campus	on campus	on campus	on campus	with parents	off campus			
Estimated grant aid you will receive	\$19,440	\$24,804	\$12,903	\$17,747	\$14,561	\$2,465	\$5,815	<i>not available</i>	<i>not available</i>	<i>not available</i>
Estimated cost for you	\$8,800	\$8,800	\$9,524	\$7,895	\$9,911	\$5,019	\$14,049	<i>not available</i>	<i>not available</i>	<i>not available</i>

CSAC is unable to provide information for all California colleges and universities. Please visit www.csac.ca.gov/URLCALCULATOR-T3 for more information.

The projections here are estimates only. Final aid determinations will be made by the institutions. Additional aid may be available in the form of loans or work study. Please contact the financial aid offices at the colleges you are considering to discuss your unique circumstances.

Changes to Cal Grant

- **Commission has approved pursuing some changes:**
 - **Increasing the Cal Grant B Access Award to \$3,000**
 - **Funding for an Innovation Fund**
 - **Earlier/clearer communications**

Next Commission Meeting

November 29-30, 2018

9 a.m.

California Student Aid Commission

11040 White Rock Road

Rancho Cordova, California

Live streaming

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/california-student-aid-commission>

Focus on Customer Service

- Hired 5 staff to assist with calls and emails
 - 20% increase in calls October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018 (86,978 calls)
 - 30, 695 emails received
- Eight 2- day Regional Trainings to be held throughout the year
- 42 High School Counselor Workshops with 6,000 counselors, administrators, teachers attending

Student Expense and Resources Survey (SEARS)

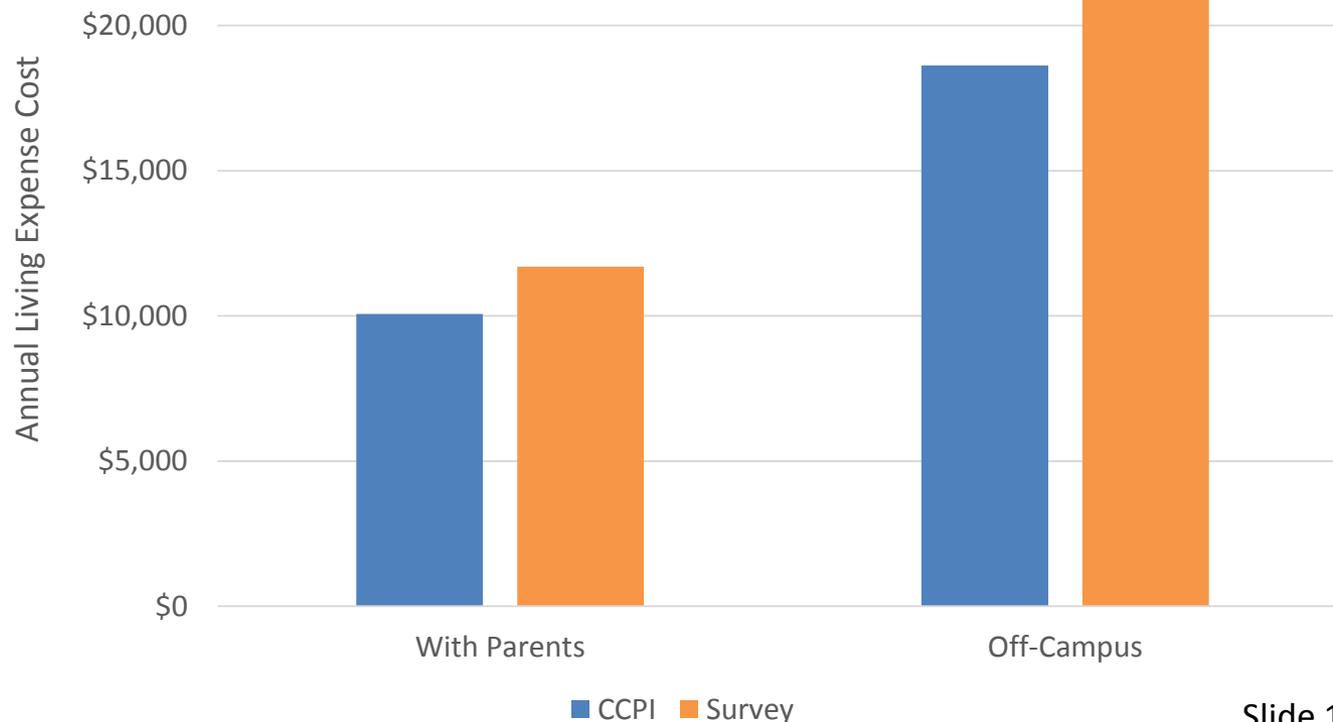
- Pilot completed Spring 2018
 - 55 Community Colleges
 - 81,000 students contacted
- Full survey to all segments: October 2018 and March 2019
- CSAC is working with participating colleges as part of an outreach plan to increase response rates.
- Deidentified survey data will be made available to segments, institutions, and college affordability researchers.

2018-19 Student Expense Budget

Allowance	With parents			On-campus			Off-campus		
	Survey	Adjust.	CCPI	Survey	Adjust.	CCPI	Survey	Adjust.	CCPI
Food	\$443	\$355	\$267	Actual Institution Costs (IC)			\$607	\$531	\$454
Housing	\$399	\$399	\$351				\$1,145	\$1,145	\$1,129
Transportation	\$99	\$126	\$126	n/a*	\$96	\$96	\$114	\$142	\$142
Recreation	\$78	\$137	\$137	\$84	\$95	\$95	\$105	\$125	\$125
Healthcare	\$42	\$42	\$42	\$44	\$44	\$37	\$73	\$73	\$49
Other Personal	\$238	\$217	\$195	\$211	\$178	\$144	\$321	\$246	\$170
Total Monthly	\$1,299	\$1,276	\$1,118	\$339*	\$413	\$372	\$2,365	\$2,262	\$2,069
Annual (9 Mo.)	\$11,691	\$11,484	\$10,062	\$3,051	\$3,717 + IC	\$3,348	\$21,285	\$20,358	\$18,621
Difference	\$1,422			\$369			\$1,737		
Books/Supplies	\$1,013	\$1,971	\$1,971	\$1,013	\$1,971	\$1,971	\$1,013	\$1,971	\$1,971

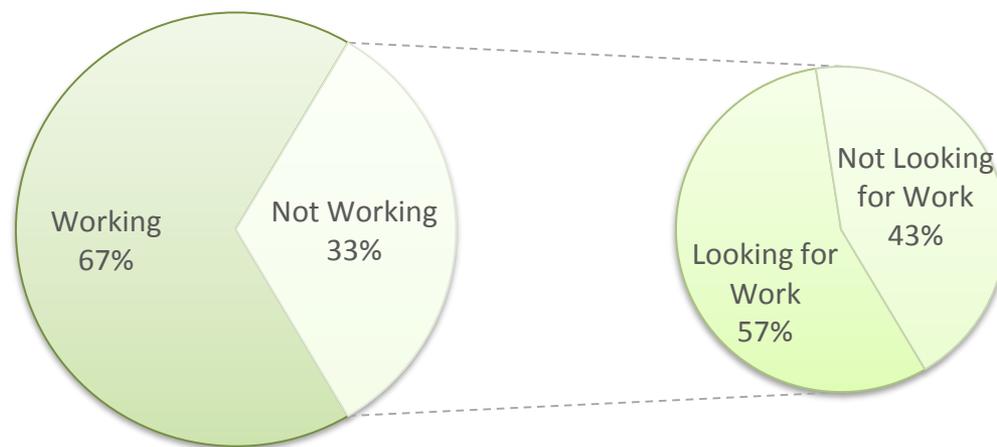
SEARS Pilot Results – CCPI

The California Consumer Price Index (CCPI) has not kept up with increases in living expense costs for CCC students.



SEARS Pilot Results – Working

- **Most CCC students are working or seeking work to pay for college.**
 - 67% of students are working, on average 30 hours per week.
 - More than half of those not working are looking for work.



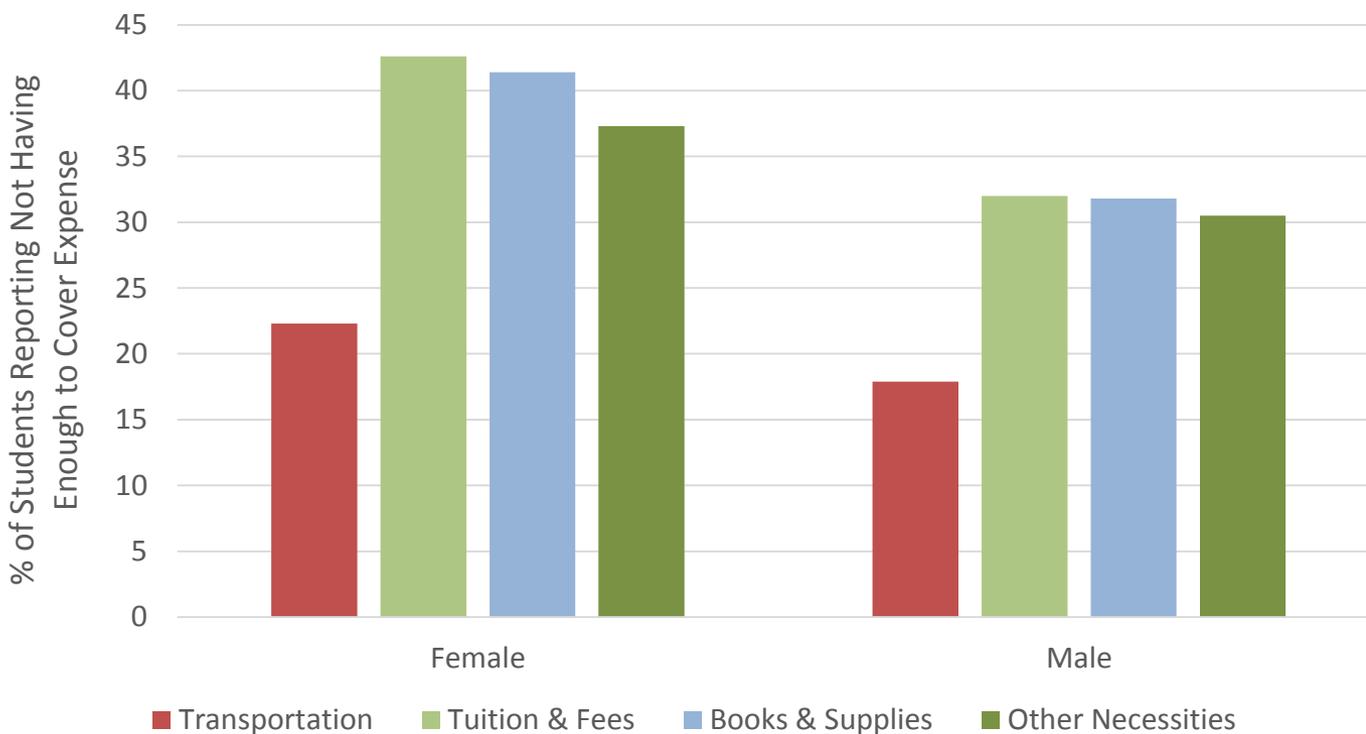
SEARS Pilot Results – How Students Pay for Education

- **CCC students are more likely to pay for school with their income and savings than to take out student loans.**
 - Most students (60%) use their own income and savings to pay for at least some education and living expenses.
 - 10% use student loans.
 - Credit cards are used by more than a quarter of CCC students to pay for some education and living expenses.



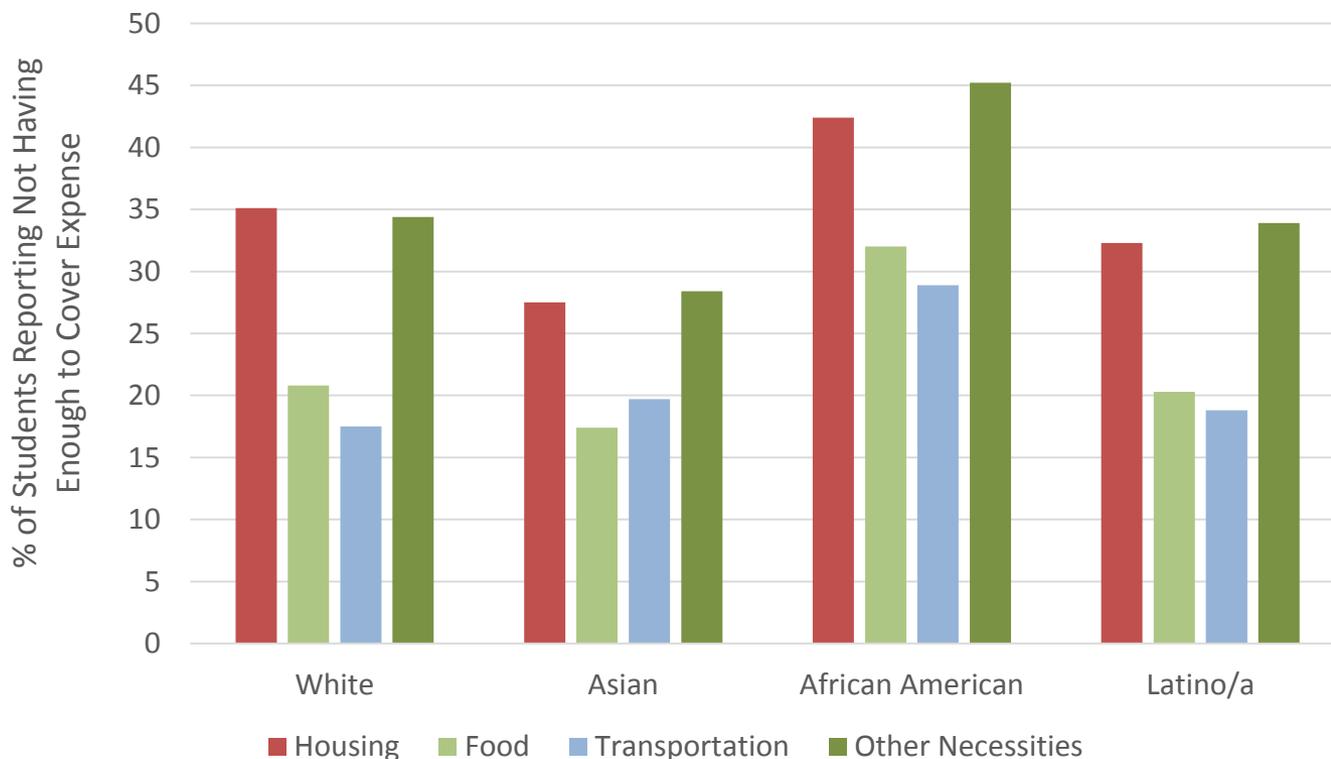
SEARS Pilot Results

Women are more likely to report not having enough resources to afford college expenses



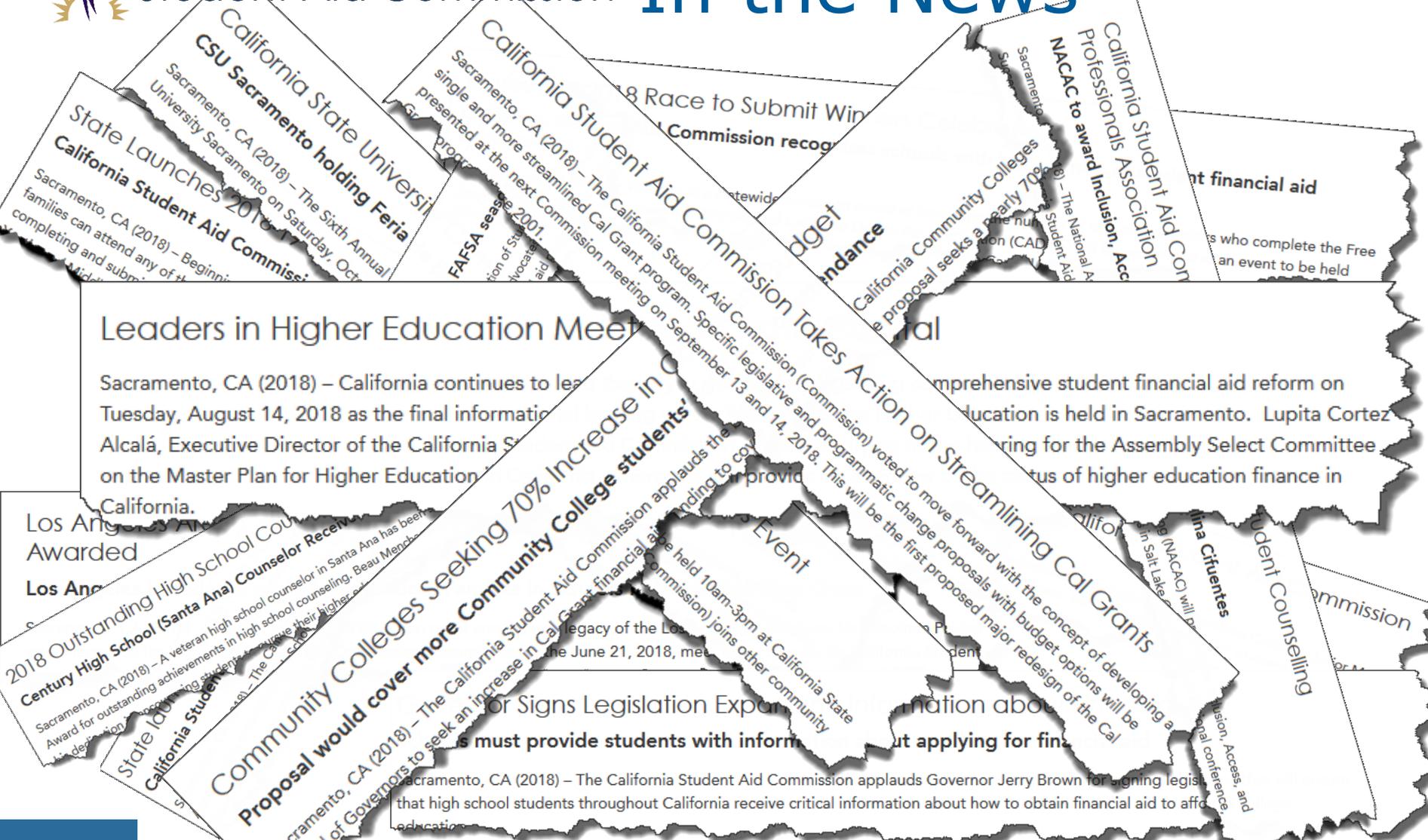
SEARS Pilot Results

There also appear to be variations in the ability to afford college based on race/ethnicity



Cal Fresh Eligibility

- 2018: More students received TANF funded Cal Grants, making 5664 students eligible for  Cal Fresh
- 125,876 students received letters this spring notifying them they may be eligible for Cal Fresh



Leaders in Higher Education Meet

Sacramento, CA (2018) – California continues to lead in higher education on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 as the final informational meeting on the Master Plan for Higher Education is held in Sacramento. Lupita Cortez Alcalá, Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission, is participating in the meeting for the Assembly Select Committee on the Master Plan for Higher Education in California.

Community Colleges Seeking 70% Increase in Cal Grant Financial Aid

Sacramento, CA (2018) – The California Student Aid Commission applauds the Board of Governors to seek an increase in Cal Grant financial aid. The Commission will be held 10am-3pm at California State University Sacramento on Saturday, October 13, 2018. This will be the first proposed major redesign of the Cal Grant program.

Proposals for Signs Legislation Expanded to All Community Colleges

Sacramento, CA (2018) – The California Student Aid Commission applauds Governor Jerry Brown for signing legislation that high school students throughout California receive critical information about how to obtain financial aid to afford higher education.

Budget Guidance

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) voted to move forward with the concept of developing a comprehensive student financial aid reform on education is held in Sacramento. Lupita Cortez Alcalá, Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission, is participating in the meeting for the Assembly Select Committee on the Master Plan for Higher Education in California.

California Community Colleges proposal seeks a nearly 70% increase in Cal Grant financial aid

Sacramento, CA (2018) – The National Association of State Student Aid Administrators (NASAA) will be holding a national conference in Salt Lake City, Utah on October 15-17, 2018. The California Student Aid Commission will be participating in the conference.

2018 Outstanding High School Counselor Awarded

Los Angeles, CA (2018) – A veteran high school counselor in Santa Ana has been awarded for outstanding achievements in high school counseling. Beau Menches, a senior counselor at Santa Ana High School, was named the 2018 Outstanding High School Counselor.

State Job Training Program

Sacramento, CA (2018) – The California Student Aid Commission is pleased to announce that the state job training program has been expanded to include more community colleges.

2018 Race to Submit Winners



Sacramento Black College Expo



- Co-sponsoring the first Expo in Sacramento
 - CSU Sacramento
 - National College Resources Foundation
- November 17, 2018 at CSU Sacramento in the Student Union; 9am-5pm
 - 6000 J Street, Sacramento

Active Legislation Season

Commission Legislative Outcomes 2018

	Bill	Author	Subject	CSAC Position	Status	Hearing Date / Outcome
Active Bills	AB 1858	Calderon	Financial Aid Shopping Sheet	Support	Chaptered	Ch. 671
	AB 2015	Reyes	FAFSA/CADAA Completion: High School Seniors	Sponsor	Chaptered	Ch. 533
	AB 2248	McCarty	Information for students on taking 30 units to graduate on time	Support	Chaptered	Ch. 533
	AB 2722	Medina	California Military Department GI Bill Award Program	Support	Chaptered	Ch. 547
	AB 3089	Thurmond	\$80K for Chafee Outreach	Support	Chaptered	Ch. 594
	AB 3255	Assembly Higher Ed. Cmt.	Postsecondary Education Omnibus	None	Chaptered	Ch. 505

Questions?

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