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Community Colleges Seeking 70% Increase in Cal Grant Budget

Proposal would cover more Community College students' total cost of attendance

Sacramento, CA (2018) – The California Student Aid Commission applauds the bold first step by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors to seek an increase in Cal Grant financial aid funding to cover more students. The proposal seeks a nearly 70% increase in Cal Grant dollars, bringing the total program amount administered by the Commission to \$3.7 billion annually.

Earlier this year, the California Student Aid Commission opened the discussion of financial aid reform across all segments of higher education, which the Cal Grant covers. The Commission retained The Century Foundation, with its education policy expertise, to prepare a report that re-imagined California financial aid for all students. The report also provided options to improve the existing Cal Grant program, eliminating some of its complexity. The Board of Governors relied, in part, upon the Commission's report to formulate the legislative and budget request for an additional \$1.5 billion Cal Grant aid for Community College students.

As the agency responsible for administering State financial aid the California Student Aid Commission is charged by the legislature and governor to be the financial aid policy leader on behalf of all California students.

“This is an important step in the financial aid reform discussion begun by the Commission this year,” said Dr. Lande Ajose, Chair of the California Student Aid Commission. “We are also looking forward to considering proposals from CSU and UC, as well as the independent institutions, as the Commission considers reform options that could benefit all California students.”

The California Student Aid Commission will hold its next meeting November 29-30, where it will continue discussions about this important issue affecting so many California students. Representatives from all of the higher education segments will be invited to participate in the policy discussions to help bring an understanding of all the issues forward.

“There is no question that the increasing costs have made higher education in California less and less obtainable,” Lupita Cortez Alcalá, Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission said. “We need to bring financial aid into the 21st century and find a solution that works for all California students and the people of California, so we are excited to consider all the proposals and options.”

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The California Student Aid Commission provides policy leadership on student financial aid for higher education, and is the primary agency administering state-authorized financial aid programs, making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians. California Student Aid Commission serves the needs of not only today's college students, but tomorrow's students, guiding them through the application process. Information and tools are available online for the parents of tomorrow's college and career technical students, a fully staffed call center answers questions and the California Student Aid Commission provides workshops and funds grants to organizations that provide access opportunities for students who are first in their family to attend institutions of higher education. For more information on how the California Student Aid Commission serves to educate, inform, and support students, their educational institutions, and the professionals who assist them please visit our website at <https://www.csac.ca.gov> or follow us on Twitter (@castudentaid) and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CSAC.StudentAidCommission/>.

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