



# NEWS RELEASE

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RANCHO CORDOVA — The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) today praised President Bush for signing the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, which provides increases in grant assistance to students across the country.

“I am pleased that Congress has passed and President Bush has signed legislation that will make postsecondary education more affordable for students with the most financial need,” said CSAC Executive Director Fuentes-Michel. “This law not only increases the maximum Pell Grant but it also provides tuition assistance to qualified students who commit to teaching in communities in high need areas.”

The law increases the Pell grant from \$4,310 a year to \$5,400 a year by 2012. It also eliminates a tuition sensitivity provision in the Pell Grant program that previously prevented some community college students from receiving full financial aid.

Fuentes-Michel said the extra cash can be used by students to pay for non-tuition related expenses, such as room and board, books, parking and school supplies.

“There are benefits to student borrowing, but grants are monies they don’t have to pay back,” she said. “The Commission is generally supportive of any increase that will provide access for California’s students, especially those from underserved populations.”

The California Student Aid Commission is the state’s principal provider of statewide grant aid to postsecondary students. The commission awarded over \$809 million to more than 277,000 Cal Grant recipients for the 2007-08 Fiscal Year.

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