

FAST BLAST



OUR MISSION: "Make education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians."

DIANA FUENTES-MICHEL, *Executive Director, California Student Aid Commission*

November 15, 2010

Message from Executive Director, Diana Fuentes-Michel

On November 1, 2010, the Commission began transferring the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program guaranty portfolio, serviced by EdFund, to Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC).

The transition is anticipated to take nine to twelve months. As a result of the Commission's response to the Federal decision to transfer the guaranty to ECMC, the Cal Grant program and all associated services, such as the Fund Your Future publication series, High School and Community College New Directors training, and Cash for College workshops will be maintained. Students are advised to continue to contact EdFund for services until further notice.

The Commission, EdFund and ECMC are committed to providing a smooth transition eliminating any disruption in services to students and schools. We will keep you apprised of information on the transition as it becomes available.

New High School Publication

I am pleased to announce that the Commission has inaugurated a new publication. "High School Shout Out" was created to provide helpful information and key application and submission dates to high school counselors, college administrators and outreach staff. Each edition will focus on critical steps necessary for students to secure college access. If you are interested in receiving the monthly editions, you may subscribe to the Commission's listserv at www.csac.ca.gov/subscription.asp.

2010-11 Cal Grant Competitive A and B Awards

WebGrants rosters now include September 2 Competitive award recipients. More than 173,000 financially eligible applicants were considered for 11,250 California Community College September 2 Competitive awards.

E-mail notifications were sent to selected students on October 12. Students without an e-mail address received a paper California Aid Report (CAR) in the mail. Award recipients were requested to review their status online at www.webgrants4students.org.

A breakdown of award scoring for Competitive Cal Grant students is available on the WebGrants Student Award Detail screen.

Additional information about the September 2 Competitive Award process can be found in Operations Memo [GOM 2010-22](#).

2010-11 High School Graduation Confirmation

Confirmation of high school graduation is required for new Entitlement Cal Grant recipients. Students must submit a High School Graduation Certification Form (G-8) to receive Cal Grant payments. It is the student's responsibility to ensure high school graduation is confirmed.

Entitlement Cal Grant participants who do not graduate from high school by December 31, 2010 will be withdrawn from the Cal Grant Entitlement program and will need to reapply for a 2011-12 award by the March 2, 2011 Cal Grant application deadline.

Please encourage students to submit the G-8 form located at www.webgrants4students.org.

2011-12 Electronic GPA Submission Training

The webcast 2011-12 Electronic Grade Point Average (GPA) Submission Training sessions have begun and will continue through February 10, 2011.

Each hour long training session provides support to schools that electronically upload GPAs through WebGrants or mail in paper GPA forms. During the

training, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive feedback.

To register for the GPA training, go to www.csac.ca.gov. The Commission's Technology Help Desk can help you if you require additional assistance. Call 888.294.0148.

Chafee Grant payments awarded

Chafee checks were mailed to schools on November 5. Payment notifications will be sent to students via e-mail advising them that their checks should be ready for disbursement at their school within two weeks.

2011 Cash for College Registration now open!

College and university campuses, high schools, regional coalitions, government, and community organizations can register to host California Cash for College (CFC) workshops offered January 1 through March 2, 2011. To access or create a new organization account, register 2011 workshops and place material requests, visit our Organizer login page at www.calgrants.org. For more information about registering your workshop, please see the 2011 Workshop Registration FAQs located at www.calgrants.org.

CFC is a successful partnership effort which brings together high schools, community college and university financial aid experts and community organizations to offer low-income and first-generation college and career-bound high school seniors and families hands-on help completing the FAFSA and other forms to apply for financial aid. Last year, 8 out of 9 workshop participants completed and submitted a FAFSA by the March 2 Cal Grant deadline.

What's ahead in 2011

CFC workshop sites which offer computers with Internet access increase the number of completed FAFSAs. For the first time, foster youth attending computer-based CFC workshops will also have the ability to apply for a Chafee Grant at the workshops. We continue to encourage workshop sites to offer Internet-connected computers.

CFC organizers will also work with high school sites to create or renew secure Commission WebGrants accounts so that high schools can receive student FAFSA completion rosters before the Cal Grant deadline.

We are excited to announce 2011 Cash for College Scholarships will continue to offer \$1,000 incentive scholarships per qualifying workshops. The 2011 Cash for

College scholarships are available through a new partnership between the Commission and ECMC, designated by the federal government to assume responsibility for the California Federal Family Educational Loan Program (FFEL) Program. The scholarship program will continue to require high school seniors to attend a CFC workshop, complete an exit survey, and submit the FAFSA and a verified Cal Grant GPA by the March 2 deadline. AB 540 eligible high school seniors attending workshops are also eligible to participate in the scholarship program. If selected, AB 540 students are required to submit a copy of their AB 540 Affidavit.

Application announcement for the 2010-11 SNAPLE NF and SNAPLE NSF

The application period for the 2010-11 Assumption Program of Loans for Education for Nurses in State Facilities (SNAPLE NSF) and Assumption Program of Loans for Nursing Faculty (SNAPLE NF) has begun. Nominations and applications must be received by the Commission no later than May 27, 2011. Complete application packets can be located at www.csac.ca.gov. SNAPLE programs are designed to encourage persons to complete their graduate degrees while serving in the nursing field. Additional information about SNAPLE NF and SNAPLE NSF can be located in Special Alert [GSA 2010-35](#).

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