

California Student Aid Commission
Student Impact, Outreach and Communications Committee

Item 5

(Information Item)

Cal-SOAP Project Directors Report

SUMMARY:

This item provides an update on Cal-SOAP Fall 2020 activities, including efforts to engage students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Project directors will discuss activities and services including Cash for College events that support student success.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; no action required.

BACKGROUND:

The California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) was created to increase accessibility of postsecondary educational opportunities for students who are from low-income families, first in their families to attend college, students who are from schools or geographic regions with documented low-eligibility or low college participation rates, and students who are homeless youth in various communities throughout California.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Cal-SOAP's continued to serve students via virtual platforms for the remainder of 2020. Every year, Cal-SOAP's plan activities and services that support students in the college admission, financial aid, tutoring and advising. COVID-19 has exacerbated the need to support students in completing financial aid applications. It was instrumental for Cal-SOAP's to aid students in completing financial aid applications. All Cal-SOAP's planned and hosted Cash for College Workshops to help students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) applications in addition to providing holistic student support programming. Project directors will discuss these efforts and plans to support students in the following months.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Yesenia Castellon, Cal-Soap Coordinator
Executive Office

Cindy Porter, Higher Education Pathways Manager
North Coast Cal-SOAP Program Director

ATTACHMENT(S):

Cal-SOAP Financial Aid Outreach Presentation