

California Student Aid Commission
Student Impact, Outreach and Communications Committee

Item 6

(Information Item)

Cal-SOAP Project Directors Report

SUMMARY:

This item provides an overview of the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) and information on the role and impact of the Student Success Coaches on Cal-SOAP students. Student Success Coaches and Cal-SOAP students will present their educational experiences during COVID-19 and how Cal-SOAP services made an impact on them achieving their college goals.

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.

Per Section 69561(m) of the Education Code, Cal-SOAP's are required to annually expend at least 30 percent of the Cal-SOAP grant funds from the Commission on College Success Coaches. College Success Coaches are current college students that serve as coaches and mentors to participating Cal-SOAP students. College Success Coaches are often at the frontline of the student experience. Thus, College Success Coaches are integral in providing services to students, including financial aid assistance, college application assistance, academic support, and summer transition. As required by Section 69561(m) of the Education Code, College Success Coaches are critical in the function of Cal-SOAP and the services provided to low-income, first-generation, and various underrepresented communities throughout California.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Yesenia Castellon, Cal-SOAP Coordinator
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Cindy Porter, Higher Education Pathways Manager
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