California Student Aid Commission

Item 11

(Information Item)

Update on the Golden State Education and Training program

SUMMARY:

This item provides an update on the development of the Golden State Education and Training Grant program.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; no action is required.

BACKGROUND:

The California 2021-22 State Budget allocated \$500 million in one-time funding (\$472.5 million in one-time federal funds and \$27.5 million in one-time General Fund) to the Commission to establish the Golden State Education and Training Grant Program. Through the Golden State Education and Training Grant Program, the Commission will make one-time grants of up to \$2,500 available to California resident workers who were displaced from employment due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are seeking to enroll in an education or training program offered by a community college, public university, or qualifying program on the Eligible Training Provider List.

This program was established to assist hundreds of thousands of California's workers in accessing the education and high-quality training that can enable them to reskill and pursue new career opportunities in light of disruptions created by COVID-19. Given the lack of traditional financial aid that has been available to serve the returning learner population and limitations in assistance provided towards non-degree education or training programs, this investment helps address a critical gap in the talent pipeline for California's workforce.

Since the enactment of the higher education trailer bill (Assembly Bill 132, 2021) to the 2021 State Budget Act, Commission staff have been reviewing the statutory framework for the new program and consulting key leaders from the workforce development and higher education sectors to inform the design of the program. The attached memo to this item provides a summary of those discussions and the direction Commission staff are taking in establishing the Golden State Education and Training Grant program to provide the greatest impact for California's displaced workers.

California Student Aid Commission

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Jake Brymner, Director Government and External Relations

ATTACHMENT(S):

Key Considerations for Maximizing the Impact of the Golden State Education and Training Grant Program

Golden State Education and Training Grant Program Presentation presented on December 2, 2021