

California Student Aid Commission  
Student Impact, Outreach and Communications Committee

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## Item 7

### (Information Item)

#### Cal-SOAP Project Directors Report

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**SUMMARY:**

This item provides an update on the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) activities during the 2021-22 academic year and how consortia continue to adjust and innovate during another difficult year. With financial aid completion rates at the forefront, this presentation will inform Commissioners of the on-the-ground realities of financial aid completion in this ongoing COVID-19 era. The presenters will share the challenges experienced in the field, lessons learned, and highlight examples of effective best practices developed by the projects to support districts, schools, students, and families for improving financial aid awareness and application completion efforts. They will also provide an update on the status of the Cal-SOAP college success coach program.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an information item; no action required

**BACKGROUND:**

The 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. Every year, Cal-SOAP's plan activities and services that support students in the college admission, financial aid, tutoring and advising. COVID-19 exacerbated the need to support students in completing financial aid applications and Cal-SOAP was instrumental in supporting students and their families complete financial aid applications remotely and in-person.

The Commission's sponsored-bill, SB 737 (Limón), was enacted earlier this year, requiring Cal-SOAP projects to focus primarily on providing financial aid awareness and application assistance in addition to college preparation services to students and families through targeted outreach metrics and data collection.

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**RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):**

Humphrey Manacsa, Cal-SOAP Coordinator  
Executive Office

Michael Lemus, Program Outreach and Marketing Manager  
Executive Office

Sonia Ramos, San Jose Cal-SOAP Program Director  
Cal-SOAP San Jose Consortium

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Cal-SOAP Consortia Update Presentation Presented by March 9, 2022