

Item 9

(Information Item)

Overview of Commission programs, initiatives, priorities, and goals

SUMMARY:

This item provides an overview of the California Student Aid Commission's (Commission) new and expanded programs and initiatives currently being developed and implemented. This item also includes priority goals and key activities for the 2022-23 fiscal year. These goals are intended to generate a high-level discussion among Commissioners about priorities going into the next year. A student video that puts a face on the diversity of students we serve through different programs will also be presented.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; not action is required.

BACKGROUND:

As an agency, this past year has been more stable than 2020-21 when we were adapting to the new COVID-19 virtual work environment. We have learned a great deal this past year and are undergoing a digital transformation. The new normal for our work is hybrid. Staff have overwhelmingly supported this approach and are eager to participate in this digital conversion accelerated by the pandemic to serve students.

The work of the Commission has continued to grow at a fast clip. The 2021-22 State Budget Act approved close to a billion new, one-time funds for the Commission to develop and implement several new programs and expand other existing programs. This presentation will provide a high-level update on the transformative work that is taking place in developing these new programs, including: 1) The Golden State Education and Training Program, 2) the Learning Aligned Employment Program, 3) The Golden State Teacher Grant Program, and several others. The Commission has taken a student-centered design approach to developing these programs. The Commission also has continued to pursue Cal Grant Equity Reform and has built significant momentum in support of the Commission's budget priorities.

This year, the Commission will resume its strategic planning engagement. The Executive Director, along with input from the Commission's leadership team, has provided a draft framework of five key goals for the upcoming year and priority activities that will drive much of the work in achieving the goals. The goals reflect many of the same priorities as last year, as well as new priorities reflective of emerging needs. A set of key activities are identified for each goal.

California Student Aid Commission

As the pandemic restrictions are lifting, we continue to keep our focus on meeting students where they are and providing the information, they need to make the best decisions possible about attending and paying for college. We understand that the pandemic has had the most devastating impacts on students from the lowest income backgrounds. This has caused many students to reconsider or put on hold their college plans. We are making every effort to design outreach and marketing programs to connect with these students in a more personal way and reassure them that college is still available, along with financial aid to help them pay for their education. We have thought deeply about the diversity of students we serve and how we can best reach them. The video presentation is a reflection of the broad cross-section of the students we serve.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Marlene L. Garcia
Executive Director

ATTACHMENT(S):

California Student Aid Commission's Annual Goals for 2022-23