

Item 15

(Information Item)

Update on Cal-SOAP in a COVID-19 environment

SUMMARY:

This item provides an update on how Cal-SOAP Project Directors are providing services and programming opportunities to students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Programming has been and will continue to be adjusted to meet the needs of students in a virtual setting. Project Directors will discuss best practices and challenges they have overcome in serving students in their regions.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item. No action is required.

BACKGROUND:

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

The Cal-SOAP Project Directors annually present a report to the Commission highlighting notable activities and accomplishments of the previous year. At the May 2020 meeting, the Commissioners requested information on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the Cal-SOAP programming. Staff worked with the Cal-SOAP lead Project Director, Joanna Romo, to gather responses to questions regarding the impact of the pandemic on changes to their business model, how they are addressing summer melt, their anticipated fall activities, and how they will provide financial aid information to students and their parents. San Diego/Imperial Valley's Project Director Linda Doughty will co-present with Joanna Romo. The attachment -- *Project Directors Respond to COVID-19 Impact* summarizes the information provided by the Project Directors.

Additionally, Commission staff requested an update from the newly approved Cal-SOAP Inland Empire consortia led by the Riverside County Office of Education and University Enterprises, CSU San Bernardino. The Inland Empire Cal-SOAP will discuss their best practices in building a new Cal-SOAP program in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, and reaching their students virtually.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Steve Caldwell, Interim Deputy Director
Program Administration and Services Division

Ramona Carlos, Specialized Programs Manager
Program Administration and Services Division

California Student Aid Commission

Joanna Romo, Lead Project Director
Santa Barbara Consortium

Linda Doughty, Project Director
San Diego/Imperial Valley Consortium

Riverside County Office of Education Consortium

University Enterprises, CSU San Bernardino

ATTACHMENT(S):

Project Directors Respond to COVID-19 Impact

Cal-SOAP Presentation – COVID-19 Response

Cal-SOAP Presentation – Inland Empire, Riverside

Cal-SOAP Presentation – Inland Empire, UEC