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CONTACT:

Judith Gutierrez

916 201-3786

Judith.Gutierrez@csac.ca.gov

California launches new “All In!” campaign to help students access financial aid

SACRAMENTO, Calif. October 5, 2022 – The California Student Aid Commission celebrated the launch of the 2023-24 financial aid applications and its new “All in for FAFSA/CA Dream Act Application” initiative at Orange Vista High School on October 4, in partnership with the Riverside County Office of Education and Val Verde Unified School District.

As of October 1, California has officially joined seven other states implementing a universal financial aid application completion requirement for high school seniors. In the 2021-22 State Budget Act, California adopted a new policy that starting in the 2022-23 academic year, local education agencies, including charter schools, are required to confirm that all high school seniors have completed a financial aid application, expanding access to financial aid to thousands of students who may have otherwise not been aware of this opportunity. Students can apply for aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application.

Riverside County and state financial aid leaders addressed Orange Vista High School’s class of 2023 at an “All In!” launch event that was followed by a series of Cash for College workshops on campus to help high school seniors with their financial aid applications. Last year, 99% of Orange Vista High School seniors applied for financial aid, setting an example for other high schools throughout California now undertaking this work.

“[Students] are our next generation of leaders and we know they will make a difference in the world, in their families, and in their communities, and they deserve the best life they can have,” said **Marlene Garcia, Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC)**, “We are here to tell the students of California that today is the beginning of applying for financial aid. Don’t wait for the deadline!”



“Education transformed my life. I was the first in my family to go to college, I used to clean houses with my mom, and I remember growing up, we never had a car that worked. I said I would go to school, and my students and my children aren’t going to have to worry about that,” said **Catalina Cifuentes, Executive Director of College and Career Readiness of the Riverside**

County Office of Education and Chair of the Student Aid Commission, “Not only did my children not have to worry about that, but I just bought my mom a brand-new car a few months ago. So now I’m able to do that for my family - I’m able to give back. The decisions you make right now have such a huge impact.”

“There is hope and there is money when you fill out the FAFSA or CA Dream Act application – it’s free money that you don’t have to pay back,” said **Angel Rodriguez, San Bernardino Community College District Associate Vice Chancellor of Government Relations & Strategic Communications and CSAC Commissioner**, “Think about who you want to be and the job you want to have. Some of you want to be famous, others want to be teachers, counselors, doctors. All of that takes training and you need to pay for college to get that. We want to give you that money!”

With this new, systemic approach, California has the opportunity to provide all students critical information and support to gain access to financial aid.



CSAC is supporting K-12 school districts and charter schools in ensuring that high school seniors successfully complete a FAFSA or California Dream Act Application on time. CSAC is leading an “All In for FAFSA/CA Dream Act Application” campaign that provides resources and tools for local educators to help students complete their financial aid applications. For more information, visit [CSAC.ca.gov/all-in](https://www.csac.ca.gov/all-in)

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The California Student Aid Commission administers the state’s \$3.5 billion portfolio of student financial aid programs and services, including the Cal Grant, the Middle Class Scholarship, and the California Dream Act Application. The Commission serves as a resource for policymakers and the public on college affordability and financing issues, and advocates for policy changes to eliminate cost as a barrier to any qualified California student pursuing a higher education. Visit our website at <https://www.csac.ca.gov/> or follow us on Social Media by clicking on our Link Tree, <https://linktr.ee/castud>