



Weekly Update 12-7-18

### **PBC Approves Preliminary Quality Focus Essay**

On Wednesday this week, the Planning and Budgeting Council (PBC) approved an *I CAN Start Strong* focus for the [College's Quality Focus Essay](#) for our Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) in preparation for our accreditation review in 2019. The PBC approved the document pending a further discussion and refinement of the college metrics that will be used to track and measure progress toward our goals.

### **California Student Aid Commission taking the Lead on Cal Grant Reform**

In recognition of the high cost of living in California, the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) at their November meeting, approved plans to consider a restructure to the state financial aid eligibility, so that it focuses on the total cost of attendance of students. Existing Cal Grant programs cover the costs of tuition and fees as well as some funding for additional educational expenses, such as books and supplies. However, the California housing crisis and the increasing prevalence of food insecurity and homelessness among college students has led to a greater focus on the overall cost of attending college – tuition plus books and supplies, room and board, and other expenses such as transportation and medical costs. Earlier this year, recognizing the need for addressing the high cost of living in California, the Commission has requested a modest increase to the Cal Grant B access award. The California Student Aid Commission voted to take the bold step of establishing the policies to govern an overhaul of the \$2 billion Cal Grant program. The 15-member Commission adopted a slate of policy positions that will allow it to begin making recommendations on legislative changes and working with partners and financial aid stakeholders to reshape the Cal Grant Program to best meet the needs of today's students.

In September 2018, the CCC Board of Governors approved in their 2019-20 Budget and Legislative Requests a proposal to reform the Cal Grant program for CCC students their proposal is as follows:

1. Focus the Cal Grant award amount on total Cost of Attendance (COA), not just tuition and fees. (Note that this proposal does not necessarily mean the maximum Cal Grant award would be equal to the full COA for a qualifying student, but that the overall goal of the program would be to ensure that a student's COA is affordable.)

2. Eliminate current restrictions based on a student's Grade Point Average (GPA), time out of high school, or age, and instead base award eligibility on a student's financial need as defined by the expected family contribution (EFC) calculation.

3. Allow students to receive a Cal Grant for coursework in any CCC certificate or degree program, as opposed to those oriented towards transfer to a four-year institution

The Commission voted largely in support of this proposal and will focus on removing or reducing the barriers students face in obtaining Cal Grants. The barriers to be reexamined include current restrictions based on a student's age, when they graduated from high school, and the requirement to meet a minimum high school Grade Point Average. This proposal is largely based on the final recommendations of the Century Foundation (TCF) report commissioned by CSAC, which called for "one Cal Grant entitlement that would be available without regard to students' age, time out of high school, high school GPA, or other factors that have severely complicated administration of, and communication about, Cal Grants," with the award based on a student's EFC rather than fixed income and asset ceilings. (Such a model would make both the qualification for and the administration of the Cal Grant very similar to the federal Pell Grant program, which is based on EFC and does not involve GPA or age limitations.)

As a member of the California Student Aid Commission, I wanted to share this information on the efforts we are taking to help support more California Community College students seeking Cal Grants. "The Commission looks forward to working with stakeholders, such as the public and private segments of higher education, student organizations, the Legislature, and Governor-elect Newsom's incoming Administration to craft financial aid reform legislation that meets the needs of 21st-century California students," (California Student Aid Commission). I plan to keep the campus informed on this financial aid reform proposal.

### **Fire Relief Fund**

As we all know, California is particularly susceptible to catastrophic fires and will be for the foreseeable future. In partnership with the District Academic Senate, the San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation has created an permanent fund for fire relief, which will support victims of these types of disasters in our state. Please visit the Foundation's [specially created web page to donate](https://foundation.smccd.edu/california-fires.php) (<https://foundation.smccd.edu/california-fires.php>).

### **Donations Needed for the College Jacket & Toy Drive**

Cañada College has launched its fourth annual Jacket & Toy Drive! The donations for this year's drive will be benefit families in Redwood City. Last year's Jacket & Toy Drive generated more than 300 donation items for hundreds of families and we are looking to grow the number of donations this year!

What we need:

*New, unused, unwrapped:*

- Toys, preferably gender neutral (science sets, sport equipment, board games, etc.)
- Jackets in all children's sizes

How you can help:

*Drop off donations at any of the following locations by **Thursday, December 13:***

- Building 8 (first floor)
- Office of Student Life & Leadership Development – Building 5, Room 354
- Library – Building 9, Third floor
- Learning Center – Building 9, Second floor
- Welcome Center – Building 9, First floor

For questions, please contact Mayra Arellano at [arellanom@smccd.edu](mailto:arellanom@smccd.edu) or x3166. Thank you, in advance, for your support in this year's Jacket & Toy Drive.

# Jacket and Toy Drive for the Children of Redwood City

Cañada College has organized a Jacket & Toy Drive to assist hundreds of children in the community of Redwood City.

**Families need your support**  
Please help by donating new, unused, unwrapped toys or jackets by  
**Thursday, December 13, 2018**

## Donation Bins

- Building 8 (1st Floor)
- Office of Student Life & Leadership Development (Bldg. 5, Room 354)
- Cañada College Library (Bldg. 9, 3rd Floor)
- Learning Center (Bldg. 9, 2nd Floor)
- Welcome Center (Bldg. 9, 1st Floor)

## Questions

Contact Mayra Arellano  
(650) 306-3166  
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Have a great weekend and I wish our students luck as they enter Finals Week!

Jamillah