



## April is Financial Aid Awareness Month

April is the California Community Colleges Financial Aid Awareness Month! Throughout the month, there will be numerous events and activities taking place to get the word out about the variety of financial aid opportunities available to help make your educational goals a reality. There will be hundreds of financial aid workshops hosted at the 112 California community college campuses across the state. At these workshops students can learn about the different types of aid available, ask questions and receive one-on-one help completing the applications.

You can use the handy financial aid events locator on our website at [www.icanaffordcollege.com](http://www.icanaffordcollege.com) to find a free workshop near you. New events are posted daily, so please check the website regularly for the most up-to-date information.

## Good News: It's Not Too Late to Apply for Financial Aid!

We know you heard a lot about applying for financial aid by the Cal Grant deadline in early March. If you missed it, don't worry – we have good news. At the California Community Colleges, you can apply for other types of financial aid year-round. From a Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver, Pell Grants, work study jobs on campus or in the community, and assistance from other programs, it's not too late to apply for the 2013-2014 academic year. So, if you need help paying for fees, books and other college-related expenses, you should apply for financial aid today! Don't delay, visit [www.icanaffordcollege.com](http://www.icanaffordcollege.com) to get started.

## The "\$5,000 Free Money for Community College" Sweepstakes Could Pad Your Pocketbooks

This spring, the "I Can Afford College" campaign is launching a new contest: the "\$5,000 Free Money for Community College" sweepstakes. In partnership with Clear Channel, we are holding a contest where one lucky winner will receive \$5,000, which can be used to help pay for fees, books, supplies and other college-related expenses. The second place prize isn't too shabby either: an iPad!

How do you enter? Students simply need to tell us how much brighter their future would look if they won the "\$5,000 Free Money for Community College" sweepstakes. These "mini-essays" only need to be 50 words or less. Once submitted, a Tweet will be auto generated encouraging your Twitter followers to click on the link so that they too have a chance to enter and win. One lucky winner will be selected for the grand prize of a \$5,000 scholarship. One other lucky winner, who re-Tweets a friend's original Tweet, will win a customized college-loaded iPad.

If you don't have a Twitter account, you can bypass the Tweet and still take part in the contest.



The "\$5,000 Free Money for Community College" sweepstakes runs from April 1 to June 23. The grand prize and second place winners will be announced on June 28. Mark your calendars! Visit our website at [www.icanaffordcollege.com](http://www.icanaffordcollege.com) to enter to win.

SWEEPSTAKES STARTS 12:01 AM APRIL 1, 2013 AND ENDS AT 11:59 PM JUNE 23, 2013. SWEEPSTAKES OPEN TO CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS AGE 16 AND OLDER. PLEASE VISIT OFFICIAL SWEEPSTAKES WEBSITE FOR COMPLETE RULES AND RESTRICTIONS. SWEEPSTAKES AND PRIZES PROVIDED BY CLEAR CHANNEL MEDIA + ENTERTAINMENT.

## College Seen Photo Competition Highlights Community College Talent

The sixth annual College Seen Photo Contest wrapped up at the end of 2012, and winners were recently announced. The contest, sponsored by the Foundation for California Community Colleges and Adobe, ran from September through October 2012.

Students were invited to submit one photo for each of the seven categories: Campus Life, Campus Elements, News and Events, Career Preparation, Sustainability in Action, Technology and Learning, and Portrait and Personality. This year's grand prize photo was

submitted by Mike Nero, a student at City College of San Francisco, and captured a player from their women's softball team in action.

The 2012 competition also included a special category, "College in an Instant with *Instagram*," which allowed students to use their smartphones to capture and submit photos using the free *Instagram* app. All photos were judged by a panel of photography and art instructors. Additionally, *Instagram* photos were shared and voted on by students, and the entry with the most "likes" received the

People's Choice award. This new category opened up the contest to a wide array of new participants.

The Grand Prize winner was awarded a \$500 cash prize, a copy of Adobe® Creative Suite® 6 Design and Web Premium, and a Wacom Intuos®4 Extra Large pen tablet. First place category winners received copies of Adobe® Creative Suite® 6 Design and Web Premium, a \$25 American Express gift card, and a selection of software and sponsored prizes.

To see all of the 2012 winners, go to [www.CollegeSeen.org](http://www.CollegeSeen.org). You can also find the College Seen winners on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/collegeseen](http://www.facebook.com/collegeseen). If you missed last year's contest, don't despair — College Seen will be back in Fall 2013.

## Our Website Makes it Easy to Afford College

If you haven't visited the [icanaffordcollege.com](http://icanaffordcollege.com) website, you are missing out on helpful financial aid information, events and features that make it easy to find out how to get financial aid. One of the easiest-to-use features is the zip code locator. All you do is type in your zip code and a list of the California community college financial aid offices closest to you will pop up. You'll get the name of the college, its physical address (in case you want to visit them in person), its website address, a direct telephone number, as well as an email address that you can use if you want to ask specific questions. Get the one-on-one assistance you need to complete your financial aid applications. Get started at [icanaffordcollege.com](http://icanaffordcollege.com).

## New Community College Scorecards Unveiled that Measure Student Success

Earlier this month, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office released web-based Student Success Scorecards that detail student performance at all 112 colleges. The new user-friendly data tool gives college-by-college views of graduation, retention and transfer rates, and was a major recommendation of the California Community Colleges Student Success Task Force.

Students, parents, community leaders and policy makers can use the scorecard to track the rate of students transferring to four-year institutions and completing certificates and degrees. The scorecard also measures how effectively colleges move students through remedial and career technical instruction.

The Student Success Scorecard is part of the California Community Colleges Student Success Initiative, which is vital to

the state's economy. Studies show jobs requiring at least an associate degree are projected to grow twice as fast as those requiring no college experience, and graduating from a community college doubles an individual's chance of finding a job compared to those who failed to complete high school.

The primary goal of the scorecards is to "help more students achieve their educational goals on time," California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris said. "We believe the public data will encourage colleges to work harder to improve themselves."

So, how is your local college doing? Check it out at [scorecard.cccco.edu](http://scorecard.cccco.edu). You can also watch a video message on the scorecard initiative from California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris at [californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu](http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu).



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About the California Community Colleges

*The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation, composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.4 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. For more information about the California Community Colleges system, please visit: [californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu](http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu).*