



brought to you by the California Community Colleges

## Winners Announced for “\$5,000 Free Money for Community College” Sweepstakes

Nearly 6,700 people participated for their chance to win our “\$5,000 Free Money for Community College” sweepstakes by writing a brief statement on how bright their future would look if they received money to help with their college education. In July, two winners were selected at random.

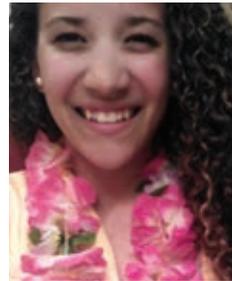
The grand prize winner of the “\$5,000 Free Money for Community College” sweepstakes is Kaitlin L. from San Diego. Kaitlin will be attending San Diego Mesa College this fall, and is working toward a career in the criminal justice field, as she stated in her essay submission:

"I plan on attending Mesa College for two years then transferring to UCSD. I'm going to get my bachelor's degree, by majoring in criminal justice, then

finishing school. I'm then going to join the Marine Corps as an officer, and be a policewoman."



**KAITLIN L.**  
*Grand Prize Winner*



**LAURA L.**  
*Second Place Winner*

The second place winner is Laura L. from Fairfield. As a runner up, Laura won a brand new Microsoft Surface tablet loaded with software to help her this fall at Solano Community College. Laura is planning on majoring in criminal justice

and aspires to have a career in law enforcement.

Congratulations to both Kaitlin and Laura!

A big thank you to Clear Channel for sponsoring this year's sweepstakes. Students, be sure to visit [icanaffordcollege.com](http://icanaffordcollege.com) for valuable financial aid information, details on future sweepstakes, and more.

## Coming Soon: California State University Applications for Fall 2014

The fall 2014 term may seem far away, but the start of the application process is right around the corner. Many California community college students plan on transferring to the California State University (CSU) system to complete their four-year degree. If this is part of your plan, you'll need to submit your application soon.

CSU campuses will begin accepting applications for fall 2014 on October 1, 2013. Students can apply online at [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu). CSU Mentor is free to use and has five helpful sections on the website, which are:

**PLAN FOR COLLEGE** – Students can create their road map to successfully enter one of the 23 CSU campuses.

**EXPLORE CAMPUSES** – Enables students to compare and contrast all 23 CSU campuses to determine which one is the best fit for them.

**APPLY ONLINE** – Allows students to complete the standard application process for all 23 CSU campuses.

**FINANCIAL AID** – Provides students with information on the various financial aid opportunities available to them.

**ASK AN EXPERT** – Gives students helpful information about how to use CSU Mentor.

To explore the site and get more information on applying, visit [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu) today.

## Bureau of Automotive Repair's Referee Program Offers Training for Future Automotive Technicians



Financial aid is in place and it's time for that next step—enrolling in courses. Community college students can earn college credits and on-the-job experience—and get paid for it—in a specialized training program that prepares them to become licensed smog check technicians and inspectors.

Operated in partnership by the Foundation for California Community Colleges and the Bureau of Automotive Repair's (BAR) Smog Check Referee Program, the Student Technician Training Program (STTP) began in 2004 and has since provided paid training in emissions inspections to hundreds of automotive students. Students work

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alongside certified Smog Check Referees and assist with testing vehicles and interacting with customers, allowing them to apply the skills they learn in the classroom to a real-life setting and experience the automotive technician world firsthand.

Several Career and Technical Education subject matter experts helped shape the program coursework, which combines practical exercises with quizzes and examinations. This coursework helps students further develop the core skills that every smog technician needs to be successful in the automotive smog test and repair industry, including performing visual, functional and complete inspections on vehicles; safety procedures; record keeping; operation of office equipment; and other essential communication and administration skills.

The Student Technician Training Program offers a gateway for interested students to make connections and discover new career opportunities in the automotive industry, creating a pool of talented technicians that support California's statewide smog check system. Students also gain training and knowledge that they can use in a career outside of the automotive smog test and repair industry, allowing them to secure other positions and strengthen the state's economy and workforce.

This program is available to automotive technology students taking a minimum of 6 semester units at one of California's 29 participating community colleges. Comprehensive 300-hour and condensed 40-hour options are available. For more information, visit us online at:

<http://www.asktheref.org/About/StudentTraining>

## The ABCs for Financial Aid

Colleges, the state and federal governments, as well as many private organizations, fund various forms of financial aid. There are a few basic types of aid available: grants and scholarships, which don't have to be repaid; work study jobs on or off campus; and loans, which must be repaid. Plus, at California community colleges, you may receive a Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver or assistance from other programs.

Below, you'll find some simple definitions to help you better understand the most common forms of financial aid:

- The **Board of Governors Fee Waiver** program waives California community college enrollment fees for qualified students for the entire school year. Students may receive a waiver for any number of units, with no minimum. You qualify if you have financial need, receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP), General Assistance, or if you meet certain income standards.
- **Grants** are a form of financial aid that students do not have to pay back (unless you withdraw from school and owe a refund by agreement). Federal grant programs include Pell Grants, awarded to low-income students, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, for low-income students with exceptional financial need. Cal Grants are funded by the State of California and are administered by the California Student Aid Commission. There are several types of Cal Grants. To learn about them, visit [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org)
- **Scholarships** are a form of aid that is based upon specific qualifications, talents or merit, often without regard to financial need. Hundreds of thousands of scholarships and fellowships from public and private sponsors are awarded each year in the United States. See our "helpful links" page for free scholarship search sites on the Web at <http://icanaffordcollege.com/index.cfm?navId=47>
- **Work Study** programs allow you to earn money to pay for your education through part-time jobs on campus or in the community.
- **Loans** for financing your education are available from a variety of programs, including:
  - **Subsidized Stafford Loans** are available to students who meet financial requirements and are attending school at least part-time. With these loans, the government pays the interest from the time you get the loan money until up to six months after you leave school.
  - **Unsubsidized Stafford Loans** are available to any student regardless of financial need, but the student pays the interest while in school, and after leaving college.
  - **PLUS Loans** are federal loans that graduate students and parents of dependent undergraduate students can use to help pay for college or career technical training. PLUS Loans can also help pay for education expenses not covered by other financial aid.
  - **Federal Perkins Loans** are administered by colleges and provide low-interest loans for students with exceptional financial need. To apply for this type of loan, students must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and a Perkins promissory note.

Financial aid eligibility depends on various factors, so look into the types of aid you might be eligible for by visiting [icanaffordcollege.com](http://icanaffordcollege.com), or talking with a financial aid advisor at your local community college campus.

All students are encouraged to apply for financial aid for college. Even if you think you may not be eligible, you might be surprised. So be sure to apply!

## Mark Your Calendar: The California Dream Act Application Deadline is March 2nd

March 2nd is the deadline for the California Dream Act Application.\* This is the same deadline as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for Cal Grant Entitlement awards. By completing the California Dream Act Application, AB 540 students can apply for and receive several types of financial aid, including a Board of Governors Fee Waiver; state financial aid like Cal Grants and Chafee Grants; assistance from EOPS, CARE or CalWORKs; and privately-funded scholarships.

You are an AB 540 student and exempt from paying non-resident enrollment fees if you meet all of the following criteria:

- Attended a California high school for at least three years;
- Graduated from a California high school, got a GED or passed the California High School Proficiency Exam;
- Are registered or enrolled at a California community college;

AND

- If required, complete an affidavit saying you have filed (or will file when you are eligible to do so) for legal immigration status.

To learn more, visit

[www.icanaffordcollege.com/DreamAct](http://www.icanaffordcollege.com/DreamAct) and mark your calendar for March 2nd.

*\*Editor's note: The June 2013 newsletter inadvertently indicated that the California Dream Application deadline was September 2nd. We apologize for the error.*

## New Priority Registration to Keep Education Plans on Track

New changes are coming to priority registration at California community colleges, helping more students achieve their higher education goals. Priority registration will be given to students who work with a counselor or advisor to develop an education plan, succeed in their classes and stay on track. The new changes take effect in fall 2014, but some colleges may begin the policy sooner, so check with your local community college's counseling office for more information.

Here's what can be done now to plan ahead:

### CONTINUING STUDENTS

- Check in with a counselor or advisor to develop or update your education plan.
- Maintain good academic standing with at least a 2.0 GPA.
- Don't enroll in more courses than you think you can finish. You must complete at least 50% of your enrolled units each semester or quarter.
- Don't accumulate more than 100 units by the fall of 2014, excluding most remedial and ESL courses. If you are nearing 100 units, meet with a counselor as soon as possible to plan your remaining courses to meet your goals.
- Some high-unit majors or programs may be exempt from the 100-unit cap, and some colleges may have stricter guidelines. Always check with your counseling office to be sure.

### NEW STUDENTS

- Complete college orientation. Find an orientation at a local campus by visiting the college's website.
- Complete the assessment process.
- Meet with a counselor or advisor to develop an education plan.
- After you begin your higher education journey, maintain good academic standing.

With this new priority registration system, students who are making progress toward their goal will be rewarded for their efforts. Make the most of your time and education by making an appointment with a community college counselor or advisor today.

## Share Your Financial Aid Success Story — We'd Love to Hear About It

Are you a student who is making your higher education dreams a reality through financial aid? Are you a financial aid advisor who has tips for successfully completing the financial aid applications and forms? Did your organization hold a successful financial aid event that helped prospective or current students apply for aid? We'd love to hear your stories.

Please send us a brief email, at [ican@cccoco.edu](mailto:ican@cccoco.edu), and tell us your story including your name, location and a short description of your success. We may feature you on our website, in an upcoming newsletter, on our Facebook page, and more. If your story is selected, we'll also provide you with an "I **Can** Afford College" mini-prize package that will include a T-shirt, backpack and re-useable water bottle. We can't wait to hear from you!

## 2013 Dr. John W. Rice Diversity & Equity Awards



*The Project MATCH award recipients, left to right, are California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris, Los Angeles Trade-Tech College Professor Artina McIntosh, LACCD Director of Diversity Programs Gene Little, Project MATCH Director Lisa Winter, East Los Angeles College Librarian Gabriella Lopez, LACCD Academic Senate First Vice President David Beaulieu and California Community Colleges Board of Governors President Manuel Baca.*

On Tuesday, July 9, the California Community Colleges system office hosted its 13th Dr. John W. Rice Diversity & Equity Awards in Sacramento. Each year the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges honors select individuals or programs within the system that have made significant contributions toward the promotion of diversity and equality on campus and in the

community. This year's award recipients were the Los Angeles Community College District's Project MATCH program, and Napa Valley College's dean of career technical education, Greg Miraglia.

Project MATCH is an internship program that is geared toward promoting diversity among faculty members within the California Community Colleges. Each year the program receives hundreds of applications for 50 internship opportunities. Those that apply come from diverse backgrounds and work experiences, and are highly motivated to obtain positions with the California Community Colleges. Through the program's 22-year history there have been approximately 500 graduates and many have gone on to have successful and rewarding careers within the California Community Colleges system.

Greg Miraglia, who has contributed significantly to the development of hate crimes training – not only on the Napa Valley College campus, but across the state and nation – was also honored at the 2013 Dr. John W. Rice Diversity & Equity Awards. Mr. Miraglia's tireless efforts to improve the safety for all students at Napa Valley College has proven to be both rewarding and

inspiring. Mr. Miraglia's career accomplishments have included being a founding member of the Napa Valley College Bias Incidence Response Team; serving as a member of the U.S. Attorney General's Northern Division Hate Crimes Task Force; and authoring two books, "American Heroes Coming Out From Behind the Badge" and "Coming Out From Behind the Badge."

Congratulations to Project MATCH and Greg Miraglia. The "I **Can** Afford College" campaign salutes your efforts and believes all students should have the opportunity to succeed.



*Napa Valley College Dean of Career Technical Training Greg Miraglia, left, and former student Anthony Morgado after Miraglia accepted a 2013 Dr. John W. Rice Diversity & Equity Award July 9 in Sacramento.*



[www.icanaffordcollege.com](http://www.icanaffordcollege.com)  
1-800-987-ICAN (4226)

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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 2.3 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 Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the California Community Colleges system, please visit: [californiacommunitycolleges.ccco.edu](http://californiacommunitycolleges.ccco.edu).*



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