



brought to you by the California Community Colleges

Mark the Calendar!

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Cal Grant application deadline on March 2nd.*



Community colleges offer many different types of financial aid – including Cal Grants. So, in order to get the most aid available for fall 2014, fill out the FAFSA now and have your high school submit a GPA verification form.

**Due to March 2, 2014 falling on a Sunday, the deadline is extended to the following Monday, March 3, 2014.*

Have a Financial Aid Success Story? Tell Us!

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 current or prospective community college students apply for aid? We'd love to hear your stories.

Please send us a brief email at ican@cccco.edu, and tell us your story including your name, college 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 reusable water bottle. We can't wait to hear from you!

Applying for Financial Aid? Be Prepared and Plan Ahead!

Attention Students: Are you planning on attending a California community college in the fall 2014? Have you considered applying for financial aid yet? Think it's too early? Think again!

It's a good idea to apply for financial aid as early as possible, because the sooner you submit your application, the better your chances are of getting the maximum amount of aid available to you. There are a variety of financial aid opportunities and, unless you apply, you will never know if you are eligible and how much aid you can get — money that can be used to cover fees, books, supplies and sometimes even help with the rent.

For starters, be sure to fill out and submit a FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This standard form is the gateway to many types of financial aid, including fee waivers, grants, scholarships and low-interest student loans. Be sure to visit icanaffordcollege.com to get connected to the 2014-2015 FAFSA.

Don't let the thought that you won't qualify for financial aid stop you from completing the FAFSA. The application is free and most colleges use it to assess your eligibility for several different types of aid. Plus, if your family circumstances change suddenly, you will already have the FAFSA information on file, which



Los Angeles Pierce College

can help speed up the process of getting you the aid you need when you're in a tight spot.

Again, the earlier you apply, the better off you are — you'll be that much closer to receiving money and making your dreams of achieving a higher education come true.

For more information on applying for financial aid, and to get started on your FAFSA, visit icanaffordcollege.com today.

A Degree with a Guarantee: The Associate Degree for Transfer

You may have heard about the new joint transfer program from the California Community Colleges and the California State University – the Associate Degree for Transfer. This program makes it easier for students to transfer between the two higher education systems, giving community college students who earn an Associate Degree for Transfer (AA-T or AS-T) guaranteed admission to the California State University (CSU) system.

The program website — adegreewithaguarantee.com — is designed to explain the guarantee and help get you started on your way to earning two degrees — an associate and bachelor's degree. And, the site now features video testimonials from real students who have earned an AA-T or AS-T degree. For example, Maria Brown, who spent much of her childhood in the foster care system, will now be transferring to San Diego State University this fall. Scot Hamilton is fulfilling a promise he made to his mother years ago — to get a college education and provide a better life for his family. Mirella Campos is headed off to California State University, San Bernardino with a newly minted Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T) degree in mathematics and is a role model for her three younger siblings. These are just a few of the personal stories of students reaping the benefits of this program and further pursuing their higher education goals.

Check out their stories and more at adegreewithaguarantee.com and learn how you can take the first step toward your Associate Degree for Transfer, too.

“I *Can* Afford College” in Your Community

In an effort to help spread the word that financial aid is available year-round at California community colleges, the “I *Can* Afford College” campaign has made appearances at various community events throughout the state. Here are just a few of the events the campaign team has participated in over the last year.

12th Annual Los Angeles Cash for College “College and Career” Convention

The “I *Can* Afford College” campaign joined thousands of highly-motivated students, educators and parents on November 6-7, 2013, at the 12th Annual Los Angeles Cash for College Convention. The two-day event drew more than 10,000 area students seeking information on scholarships, financial aid and college opportunities. The event featured dozens of exhibitors, including those from private universities, state colleges, trade schools and community colleges.



Wheatland High School’s Career and College Fair

On November 8, 2013, Wheatland High School’s Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) club hosted the school’s Annual Career and College Fair. Ten organizations and colleges filled the school’s gymnasium and throughout the day the entire student body (700 students) stopped by the fair and spoke with representatives from the “I *Can* Afford College” campaign.



Hispanic Scholarship Fund “College Camp” Series

In our ongoing effort to educate Latino high school students about financial aid, on November 23, 2013, the “I *Can* Afford College” campaign took part in “College Camp,” an event hosted by the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. The outdoor event took place at California State University, Los Angeles, drawing hundreds of Latino students and their families for the all-day expo that included workshops and sessions on financial aid resources.



Keep an eye out for the campaign at upcoming events in your area. You can find out about events before they occur by “liking” us on Facebook at [facebook.com/icanaffordcollege](https://www.facebook.com/icanaffordcollege) and following us on Twitter at twitter.com/icanafrcollege.

Did You Know?

10 Fun Facts About the California Community Colleges

1. Three out of every 10 Californians age 18-24 are currently enrolled in a community college.
2. California community colleges train 80 percent of firefighters, law enforcement personnel, and emergency medical technicians.
3. California community colleges educate 70 percent of our state's nurses.
4. Established in 1910, Fresno City College is the oldest existing public community college in California.
5. After receiving full accreditation in 2010, Norco College in Riverside became the 112th community college in the California Community Colleges system.
6. The NBC sitcom "Community" is based on the experiences of Dan Harmon, the show's creator, at Glendale Community College. Many of the show's exterior shots are filmed on location at Los Angeles City College.
7. "The Dark Knight Rises," "Cheaper by the Dozen" (2003 remake) and "The Longest Yard" (2005 remake) all used El Camino College in Torrance as a filming location.
8. As an extension of the Wine Studies Program at Santa Rosa Junior College, Shone Farm Winery was founded in 2008 and provides students with hands-on experience in various phases of the winemaking process.
9. Foothill College, De Anza College and Lake Tahoe Community College are the only California community colleges in the system that operate on a quarter schedule; all others run on a semester schedule.
10. Californians with a college degree will earn \$1.3 million more than their peers with only a high school diploma. Students who earn a degree or certificate from a California community college nearly double their earnings within three years.

Paving the Way for Today's Thinkers and Stars — The California Community Colleges

The California Community Colleges system has provided exceptional educational experiences to many of today's brightest minds, entertainers and public servants. These "Notable Alumni" used the education they received at a California community college to help propel their future careers.

Here are just a few of the recognizable names of those who have attended a California community college:

Robin Williams
Actor/Comedian
College of Marin

Hon. Anna Eshoo
U.S. Congresswoman
Cañada College

Steve Jobs
Co-founder, Apple Inc.
De Anza College

Dr. Eugene Dong
Heart Transplant Doctor/Professor,
Lawyer
Hartnell College

Ken Grossman
Founder/Owner,
Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.
Butte College

Dolores Huerta
Co-founder, United Farm Workers
San Joaquin Delta College

Beverly Cleary
Best-selling children's author
Chaffey College

Courtney Force
National Hot Rod Association
Funny Car Driver
Santiago Canyon College

You can read the stories of these notable California community college alumni — and many more — at californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Newsroom/NotableAlumni.aspx.



Student Feature – Ingrid Phillips

The Secret to My Success: Take Advantage of Opportunities and Never Look Back

Ingrid Phillips is originally from a small town called Romulus, Michigan, about 25 miles west of Detroit. She was a struggling single mom when she decided to visit the MiraCosta College campus in Oceanside, near San Diego, a few years ago. Following that visit, she re-entered school after being away for more than 27 years — and she's never looked back.

Ingrid graduated from MiraCosta College in 2012 with an associate degree and Certificate of Achievement in secretary/administrative assistant with high honors. She's now a full-time student at California State University, San Marcos, and plans to major in sociology with a minor in communications. She would eventually like to get her master's degree in counseling.

"Financial aid has been a huge part of my success as a 3.5 GPA student," Ingrid said. "Receiving financial support has helped me take care of some of the financial needs of my family, so that I could attend college full-time and work part-time."

During her tenure at MiraCosta College, and now while she's a student at California State University, San Marcos, Ingrid has received a variety of scholarships and a Cal Grant.

"I would tell other students who want to attend college to take advantage of the opportunities that are available right now on their campus," Ingrid said. "There's the Board of Governors Fee Waiver, federal aid, state aid, work study programs and more. Most community colleges also have awesome scholarship departments, and too many students don't even know about it."



Important Changes to the Board of Governors Fee Waiver

Beginning in the fall of 2016, California community college students receiving Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waivers will have to meet minimum academic and progress standards to remain eligible for the financial assistance.

Under the new regulations, California community college students not maintaining a minimum 2.0 GPA for two consecutive primary terms, or who don't successfully complete half the units attempted in that period, will lose eligibility for the fee waiver. These new regulations will work in

concert with statewide enrollment priorities that will go into effect in fall 2014 to encourage students to focus on their classes and seek help when they face difficulties. Community colleges are putting in place more counseling and other support services to help students define their educational and career goals and stay on track to achieve them.

For more information about the Board of Governors Fee Waiver — and other financial aid opportunities that may be available to you — be sure to visit icanaffordcollege.com.

Coming Soon: New "I Can Afford College" Advertisements

The "I Can Afford College" campaign is hard at work creating new advertisements to let current and prospective community college students know about the financial aid that's available to help pay for fees, books and supplies. Soon you'll hear and see these ads — so keep an eye and ear out for them, and then visit our Facebook or Twitter pages to let us know what you think!



contact us:

www.icanaffordcollege.com

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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 2.1 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.cccco.edu.



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