PROGRAM UPDATES

Cal-SOAP Award Winners!
Congratulations to Luis Portobanco, Office Manager and Adrian Hermosillo, Student Success Coach for their recognition as one of Assembymember Eloise Gomez Reyes 30 under 30! We are so proud to have them on the Cal-SOAP Team!

Calling all future Coyotes! Let Cal-SOAP host a visit to CSUSB for YOUR students!
January is approaching, and Cal-SOAP would be THRILLED to host your students for a campus visit. Visits will include a campus tour, student panel presentation, and major/program presentations. Students will also learn more about Cal-SOAP and applications for our intensive program will be available. If interested, please complete the following Google form and our Operations Managers will work with your contact to schedule the dates:

https://bit.ly/calsoap-csusb22
Due to funding restrictions, we ask that districts provide transportation, chaperones, and arrange meals. Cal-SOAP can NOT provide these components

🎓Cal-SOAP is RECRUITING! 🎓

Cal-SOAP is currently recruiting students in 9th, 10th, and 11th grade! Students who join our program are eligible for FREE college planning and advising, application assistance, college visits, summer programs, financial aid assistance, and more. Students can complete the application ONLINE at **https://csusb-soap.mylacai.com/apply.php** OR can contact us for a paper application!

🏆 College Cash Cup Update 🏆
It's NECK AND NECK! *Rialto Unified and Victor Valley Union High School Districts are* ***TIED*** with a 27% submission rate! Apple Valley follows closely with 25%! Winter may be upon us, but the College Cash Cup is HEATING UP! 🔥 There's still time to help your seniors complete their financial aid applications when we return from the winter break! The challenge closes on March 2nd, 2022. Who will take home the College Cash Cup? 🏆

🏁 Race to Submit Dashboard:
You can track your district's progress using the Race to Submit dashboard! This dashboard tracks submission and completion of FAFSA and CADAA applications at each school site. Cal-SOAP will be providing updates on the competition through the Cal-SOAP digest. See the link below to access the dashboard and keep an eye on the competition:
https://webutil.csac.ca.gov/Dashboard/default.aspx

Race to Submit 10-29-21	Submitted	Complete
Apple Valley Unified	25	23
Barstow Unified	21	17
Hesperia Unified	20	18
Morongo Unified	11	10
Oro Grande Unified	5	4
Rialto Unified	27	23
Snowline Unified	19	17
Upland Unified	12	10
Victor Unified	27	25
Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified	20	18
SB County	22	20
State	22	20

🤑 **Cash for College**:
Hosting a Cash for College Workshop? Need support from Cal-SOAP staff? Be sure to book **directly** with our team using the link below. Booking with us ensures that Cal-SOAP staff takes care of the logistics for the workshop management system, sign-in sheets, surveys and more:

> 💻 https://calendly.com/calsoapsbcc/cash4college
> **Please note that workshops submitted directly to the CSAC Workshop Management System are NOT received by our staff. In order to ensure our staff are present at your event, please submit requests through our booking link.*

If you have questions, need extra support for your ongoing efforts, or have specific requests, please feel free to email us at calsoap@csusb.edu

Federal Student Aid Update: Widespread Lack of Communication and Platform Errors

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opened for the 2022-2023 school year on October 1, 2021. However, due to capacity challenges at Federal Student Aid (FSA) at the U.S. Department of Education (ED), the campaign to notify borrowers of their application status has been much less than years prior. While their online communications through social media and their website hold a host of resources and options for support, their individual user reminders and support did not occur as in past years. With the lowest FAFSA completion rates in recent years, it is critical that counselors and advisors ensure students are aware of the status of their 2022-2023 FAFSA form. Along with challenges regarding notifications and communications, there have been numerous technical issues with the FSA platform for students and families. **NCAN recently led a letter** to ED cataloging the numerous technical issues that users have reported, urging ED to act quickly to resolve these issues, as students rely on the funding opportunities they receive through the FAFSA.

Students Can Apply Now for the Fall Semester at a California Community College
As the spring semester approaches, there are still eligible students on the fence about enrolling at California community college. Prospective students are encouraged to enroll now in classes and plan ahead for future semesters. The benefits can't be ignored.

Attending a California community college doubles an individual's chance of finding a job compared to those who do not complete high school. In addition, students who obtain a degree or certificate from a California community college nearly double their earnings within three years, which puts them on track to earn a good living wage and be able to provide for themselves and their families.

Prospective students should first visit **ICanGoToCollege.com**, a website available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese, that includes information about enrollment, the variety of available financial aid opportunities, transfer and career training programs offered at community colleges all in one central location. The website also offers a short online Career Opportunities quiz that can help prospective students learn about potential career paths that might interest them.

California community colleges are the largest provider of workforce training in the nation, making them a significant contributor to the state's pipeline of talent for high-demand industries. In fact, there are more than 200 career training opportunities available at the 116 California community colleges statewide. Additionally, students can transfer to a four-year university or college with guaranteed junior status after completing two years at a community college.

Community colleges offer flexible scheduling and access to helpful resources allowing students to remain home or close to home. Support services are also available at community colleges to help with tutoring, counseling, career planning and health and wellness. Additionally, financial aid is available year-round to help cover many of the costs for attending a community college.

The time is now for prospective students to start planning for their future. Visit **ICanGoToCollege.com** today to learn more, enroll in classes and apply for financial aid to help cover college costs like books, supplies and sometimes even the rent.

UC Application Extensions
Students interested in UC who have not yet applied still have the opportunity to be at UC in fall 2022. Applications are being accepted at UC Merced for both freshman and transfer applicants until January 7. UC Riverside and UC Santa Cruz will accept only transfer applications until January 7.

The UC website has resources on admission requirements, and information on Financial Aid including the new Tuition Stability Plan, the Blue and Gold Opportunity program and the Middle Class Scholarship program.

STUDENT/FAMILY RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

My Story Matters Scholarship Opportunity
PLUS ME will award **five $500 scholarships** in February 2022. Each student chosen will be invited to share their story at our **LISTEN 2022** public event.
Applications are due December 22.
All high school students in Southern California are eligible.

JMJ Phillip Group College Scholarships
Deadline: January 1, 2021
JMJ Phillip Group Scholarship is open to graduating high school seniors who will be majoring in STEM (science, technology, engineering, or math). Visit their website for more information.

Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation Youth Grants
Deadline: January 21
1 in 6 children in the United States live in households experiencing food insecurity in 2021. This is a problem that can be solved, and kids are a part of the solution! YSA (Youth Service America) and Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation are looking for the best ideas from young people about how they can provide immediate food aid to help end hunger today while also going beyond food aid to help ensure people are not hungry tomorrow.

Grants of up to $500 are supporting youth leaders ages 5-25 across the U.S. to turn their ideas into action and make an impact on the issue of childhood hunger. There is also an option to apply for a fundraising match grant, which includes $100 for fundraising-related costs and a $400 matching grant to a local hunger relief organization of your choice. Learn more and apply by January 21 at www.YSA.org/SodexoYouth

FUNDING/OTHER OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES:

Truth Initiative Tobacco and Vape-Free College Program
Deadline: January 20, 2022
The Truth Initiative Tobacco and Vape-Free College Program offer grants up to $20,000 to community colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and Predominantly Black Institutions. This program supports the transition to 100% drug-free campuses and tackling drug use as a social justice issue.*

https://careers.csusb.edu/en-us/job/507265/program-administrative-coordinatorets-uec

Founded in 1965, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) is a federal anti-poverty national service program designed to provide resources to nonprofit organizations and public agencies to address poverty and poverty-related problems in the United States. VISTA is now incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of national service programs, housed at the federal agency AmeriCorps, formerly known as the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). VISTA projects place year-long volunteers at organizations to help build capacity and fight poverty in their communities. VISTA Projects must be developed in accordance with four core principles: an anti-poverty focus; community empowerment; sustainable solutions; and

capacity building. If you're interested in hosting VISTA members at your organization please visit this **website** for more information about how to apply.

ARTICLES AND RESEARCH OF INTEREST:

Surgeon General Warning: The pandemic has i**ncreased adolescent depression,** anxiety, and mental health distress.

National Student Clearinghouse Research Center
Two percent of students who did not enroll in college in fall 2020 made their way back to college in fall 2021.

Financial Aid: Paying for College in California. The California Student Aid Commission is hosting a series to provide students and families the information they need to successfully navigate California's financial aid system. Sign up through a favorite podcast provider or **go here on YouTube**

The Value of a College Degree
Many people are asking what the value of higher education is right now. Is it worth it? What can you expect to make as a result? How much will it cost? How long until it pays off? In this episode, we sit down with the Chancellor of the University of California-Riverside, Dr. Kim Wilcox, to hear his thoughts. Plus, we meet Dr. Yvonne Olivares, who recently completed a study of Inland Empire high school students to determine their perceived value of a college education today.

***First-Generation College Graduates Lag Behind Their Peers on Key Economic Outcomes*Pew Research Center 202**1

A new Pew Research Center analysis of data from the Federal Reserve Board finds that first-generation college graduates are not on equal footing with their peers who have college-educated parents. Read the **FULL REPORT HERE.**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Do you have an event, activity or opportunity that you would like featured in the digest? Please submit opportunities here.

