



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

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**MORE THAN 50 CASH FOR COLLEGE WORKSHOPS OFFER
LOS ANGELES STUDENTS MULTILINGUAL HELP WITH
FINANCIAL AID FORMS**

Cash for College workshops and Cal Grants make education beyond high school financially accessible to all California students

LOS ANGELES – The California Student Aid Commission and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, along with prominent education, business and government leaders, today announced that Los Angeles Cash for College will bring multilingual financial aid professionals to more than 50 different Cash for College workshops in the L.A. metropolitan area. The workshops kickoff on Saturday, Feb. 10 and continue throughout the month prior to the March 2 Cal Grant deadline.

The free workshops, coordinated by L.A. Area Chamber affiliate UNITE-LA, and its coalition of campuses, high schools and community groups, will serve to walk families through the application process for Cal Grants and other financial aid. Workshop volunteers will be on hand to provide personal step-by-step assistance to applicants, regardless of age, income, grades or immigration status. The Education Financing Foundation of California is offering a \$1,000 scholarship at each qualifying workshop as an extra incentive for students to complete their financial aid forms.

“Cash for College makes the dream of a college education a reality for thousands of students and their families,” said Mayor Villaraigosa. “I commend the Cash for College program for making financial aid workshops available to more and more families every year, giving young people the tools they need to become the leaders of the next generation of this great city, and beyond.”

With more than 90,000 high school seniors in 2007 in L.A. County alone, it is the aim of Cash for College to aggressively raise awareness about the availability of Cal Grants as a significant financial aid option to low- and middle-income students. A Cal Grant is money that does not have to be paid back and awards up to \$9,700 per student per year to pay for college or career/technical school expenses. The California Student Aid Commission reports that more than 90 percent of Cal Grant recipients attending two- or four-year schools re-enroll for a second year.

“A college education allows young people to be competitive in the economy of tomorrow. Our workforce needs to be educated, skilled and motivated to take on highly specialized areas,” said L.A. Area Chamber president and CEO Gary Toebben. “On February 10 and throughout the month, Cash for College workshops will put a higher education within students’ grasp.”

To apply for a Cal Grant, students must fill out and submit two forms – a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and a Cal Grant GPA Verification form. Other financial and academic eligibility requirements apply. Students and families can visit www.lacashforcollege.org or www.calgrants.org to locate a Cash for College workshop in their community or find the forms they need to apply for financial aid.

The Los Angeles Cash for College workshops are made possible thanks to many sponsors including, ALL Student Loan Corporation, American Express, Carol and James Collins Foundation, Ed Fund, La Opinión, Northrop Grumman, State Farm Insurance, Sterling Foundation, Subway, Telemundo, The Education Financing Foundation of California, Univision and Vons.

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The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information, visit www.lachamber.org.