



PRESS RELEASE

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**California Community Colleges Chancellor Urges Eligible Students to Apply for Financial Aid
under the California Dream Act**
Applications down more than 40 percent from last year

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California Community Colleges Chancellor [Eloy Ortiz Oakley](#), concerned by a dramatic drop in financial aid applications among undocumented students, reminded students that assistance is still available through the California Dream Act and urged them to apply.

“It’s apparent that the national conversation surrounding immigration and deportation has created an environment that is confusing and threatening to many of our students,” Oakley said. “Under the Dream Act, no student’s personal information is shared at the federal level. I encourage all eligible students to apply today for the [Cal Grant](#), as well as other forms of state-funded financial aid, such as the Board of Governors Fee Waiver, that are available year-round.”

Last year at this time, the California Student Aid Commission had 34,000 applications. Now, just a few days before the March 2 Cal Grant deadline for new applications, there were only 20,000 applications on file. The California Dream Act allows undocumented students to apply for many of the same financial aid opportunities available to others. Renewal of Cal Grants under the California Dream Act can be made after March 2. More information can be found at icanaffordcollege.com.

“The California Community Colleges has always embraced the values of diversity and inclusion. It is what makes our system, and the state of California, strong and prosperous,” said Chancellor Oakley. “Our 113 community college campuses are a promise to the future and their doors are open to all eligible students. I urge everyone to apply.”

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 113 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 community colleges, please visit <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/>.

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