



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Yvonne Stewart-Buchen 916.526.8159
Nora Bruce 916.526.8438

Free Workbook Teaches Students How To Pay for College

RANCHO CORDOVA— The California Student Aid Commission and EDFUND, its auxiliary, are pleased to announce the release of the latest edition of their annual *Fund Your Future* financial aid publications series for students, families and high school counselors.

The *Fund Your Future Financial Aid Workbook* for school year 2008-09 provides information on the major state and federal opportunities for funding a college education or career training. The workbook provides information on the many California and federal programs for students, including Cal Grants, Chafee Grants for current and former foster youth, Pell Grants and other federal grants, federal loans for students and parents, and federal work-study. There is also a chapter on financial aid for California's colleges.

"The *Fund Your Future* workbook is an excellent resource for students and their families on the major financial aid programs and how to apply for them," said Diana Fuentes-Michel, executive director of the California Student Aid Commission. "The keys for students and families are to start their research early, explore all their options and meet application deadlines, the March 2 deadline for Cal Grants in particular."

"One of the most important things we can do is help families understand that sending their children to college doesn't have to be financially overwhelming," said Sam Kipp, president of EDFUND. "The *Fund Your Future* workbook is a great tool for planning a college financial aid strategy."

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Geared toward high school juniors and seniors and incoming college students, the 40-page workbook offers:

- a step-by-step guide to applying for student aid
- tips for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA
- Cal Grant application deadlines
- a financial aid checklist
- worksheets for evaluating financial aid offers and creating a spending plan
- a listing of helpful Web sites
- 13 other ways to pay for college that are not need-based

Also available is the *Fund Your Future* brochure, providing an overview of college financial aid programs, for students in grades 9-12. The workbook and brochure are each produced in Spanish as well as English.

Rounding out the series is the *Fund Your Future Counselors' Guide* for high school counselors and other mentors containing detailed information on the financial aid application process and California's student aid programs and their requirements. The guide includes reproducible fact sheets, including a two-page financial aid summary in English and Spanish, tips for protecting against identity theft and an A-Z guide to smart money management.

The California *Fund Your Future* publications are free for schools and community organizations. To order, visit EDFUND's Web site at www.edfund.org or write to the EDFUND Shipping Center at: P.O. Box 419045, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9045. Students and their families should go to their high school counseling center or nearby college financial aid office to pick up a copy of the 2008-09 *Fund Your Future* workbook.

For further information on the California financial aid programs for students, visit the Commission's Web site at www.csac.ca.gov and its student-focused Cal Grant Web site at www.calgrants.org.

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The California Student Aid Commission is the state's principal provider of intersegmental statewide grant aid to postsecondary students. Founded in 1955 as the California State Scholarship Commission, the Commission's primary programmatic responsibilities include operation of the Cal Grant program, which is distributing approximately \$800 million to California's college students during the 2006-2007 school year; operation of the California Chafee Grant Program; and several multi-million dollar targeted state scholarship and loan forgiveness programs. The 15-member Commission oversees the activities of its nonprofit student loan services auxiliary, EDFUND. The Commission is headquartered in Rancho Cordova, California.

EDFUND, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, is one of the nation's leading providers of student loan guarantee services under the Federal Family Education Loan Program. EDFUND offers students a wide range of financial aid and debt management information while supporting schools with advanced loan processing solutions and default prevention techniques. Operating as an auxiliary corporation of the California Student Aid Commission and founded in 1997, EDFUND processed more than \$10.1 billion in student loans in 2005-06 (including Consolidation loans) and manages a portfolio of outstanding loans valued at \$27 billion. EDFUND is headquartered in Rancho Cordova, California with regional offices located throughout the nation

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P.O. Box 419045, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9045