

NEWS

For More Information Contact:
Susie Williams (916) 568-3041
August 14, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOS RIOS ANNOUNCES EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR CAL GRANT STUDENTS

Sacramento—The state budget impasse has created a crisis for students dependent on Cal Grants to attend college this fall. With only ten days left before the start of classes and no state budget in sight, thousands of local area college students may not have the financial support they need to start the semester.

In response, the Los Rios Community College District says it will provide emergency funding for Cal Grant students attending American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake and Sacramento City colleges.

Last fall, nearly 2,700 Los Rios students received Cal Grant funding.

“This is a very serious issue,” said Los Rios chancellor Brice Harris. “While the budget stalemate is impacting our District budget as well, we believe we must do what we can to support our students so they can complete their education.”

Cal Grants are awarded based on financial need and typically provide a full time student \$1,550 a year to cover the cost of books, supplies, childcare, transportation, etc.

(over)

Page: 2

The District has heard from many students concerned about their financial aid and their educational future. Their stories are compelling.

Take for example Christina Luft who has just one semester left to complete her general education and science prerequisites needed for the R.N. program at ARC. She needs Cal Grant dollars for books, printing paper, and other school supplies. "I have a child as well, and my biggest dream/goal is to get through R.N. school and send him to college when the time comes."

Michael Ward wrote, "I'm depending entirely on this aid money to pay for my college expenses. My dad was put out of work last year with an injury and has since been unable to find a job due to the decline of our economy. We currently have a 3-day eviction notice on our apartment and are running out of options. College is my sole aspiration at this point, and without aid, I don't see that happening. I won't be able to afford books for weeks!"

Danette Harman is a single mother who is working toward becoming a respiratory therapist. "Without financial aid, it would be impossible for me to support my three children, work a full-time job, participate in the externship hours at local hospitals, and complete the requirements of the rigorous medical program I am in."

If the State budget isn't finalized by the start of fall classes, the District will advance qualified Cal Grant students initial support funding.

###