



News Release

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Student Government Funds Cal Grants at Cuesta College during Budget Impasse

In response to the continuing state budget impasse, the Associated Students of Cuesta College (ASCC) passed a landmark vote to loan Cuesta College \$150,000 of its emergency reserves to fund Cal Grants for 500 of the college's highest need students that have been impacted by the budget shortfall.

ASCC, the student governing body on campus, passed the proposal with a unanimous vote at the ASCC Senate meeting on Thursday, September 18. The funds will be made available to approved Cal Grant B students as early as Friday, September 26.

"It is an historic effort of students helping students," said Ed Maduli, assistant superintendent/vice president, administrative services. "The ASCC student officers have displayed exceptional leadership in facilitating the dispersal of Cal Grant funds to their fellow students."

As the budget impasse continues, an estimated 86,000 California community college students are not receiving Cal Grant funds as expected. The loan from ASCC would provide funds for approximately 500 Cal Grant B eligible recipients at Cuesta College.

"These students depend on the Cal Grant funding to finance their education," said Joe Vanherweg, ASCC president. "This decision is an example of how committed ASCC is to helping Cuesta College students in their mission to better educate themselves and to make California a better place."

A memorandum of understanding that addresses the repayment of the student funds will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval on October 1, 2008.

"I am very pleased and impressed by the action taken by our student leaders," said Dr. Dave Pelham, superintendent/president of Cuesta College. "They have shown their concern for their fellow students and have demonstrated their creative problem solving abilities. I congratulate them all."

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