Welcome back to a new school year. We would also like to welcome the new and returning College Advisor Aides placed at your school sites. Their names, hours and location are noted on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter. Please see the CAA anytime you need assistance during their posted work hours.

We have many activities planned for the coming year. We will be conducting College Options, Study Skills, UC and CSU workshops at the school sites. Letters will be sent to your home informing you of the activities with day and time. Financial aid day and evening workshops will take place in January and February.

Cultural field trips are being planned for the 9th and 10th graders at certain school sites. This year we will be visiting to the tide pools at Leo Carrillo State Park. The Twenty-seventh Annual Career/College Information (CCID) will be held on the CSULB campus on March 17, 2006. All 10th grade participants will be invited to attend. The CCID will include a keynote speaker, workshops on various careers and educational programs.

Field Trips to tour local college campuses for eleventh grade participants are being scheduled for February, March, and April. Please contact your CAA for information on any of the above items.

Visit the EIS/TS Web site at www.csulb.edu/eists. Check the activities page frequently for current and upcoming program activities. Feel free to e-mail us with any questions you may have at eists@csulb.edu or call (562) 985-5387.

Website Resources

Universities and Colleges
- UC Online Application
  www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply
- UC Paper Copy
  www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/apply/download.html
- UC Personal Statement Tutorial for Students
  www.ucgateways.org
- CSU Online Application
  www.csumentor.edu
- California Independent Colleges and Universities
  www.aiccumentor.edu
- California Community Colleges
  www.cccco.edu
  www.icanaffordcollege.com
- General College Search
  www.collegeview.com
  www.cacollegeguide.com
  www.collegeispossible.org
  www.hbcumentor.org

Careers
- www.mycoolcareer.com
- www.bls.gov/k12
- www.careervoyages.gov
- Exploring Majors
  www.assist.org

Testing
- College Board
  www.collegeboard.com
- ACT
  www.act.org
- Practice Tests
  www.4tests.com

Financial Aid
- California Student Aid Commission
  www.csac.ca.gov
- FAFSA
  www.fafsa.ed.gov
Prospective students should give priority to completing the high school courses required for admission—the “a–g” Subject requirements. You should understand, however, that the 15 college prep courses from the approved “a–g” requirements represent the minimum admission standards. The universities strongly recommend, but do not require, that students complete additional coursework in many of the “a–g” subjects. Below is a comparison chart of the minimum eligibility requirements for freshmen planning to apply to the CSU or UC with exceptions noted. Each high school has a UC-approved course list that is available from your counselor or at www.ucop.edu/pathways.

Your high school GPA will be calculated using only “a–g” approved courses taken after the 9th grade, including the summer between grades 9 and 10, with a “C” or better for both the CSU and UC. Bonus points may be awarded for up to eight grades (or four units) of “C” or better in approved honors courses taken in grades 10 and 11, with a maximum of 2 of these units completed in the 10th grade. Grades earned in ninth grade are not used in the GPA calculation. CSU has no restriction on the number of times a course may be repeated; for UC a course that was not completed with a grade of “C” or better can be repeated only once. Courses where “D” grades are earned must be repeated, EXCEPT in the areas of math, chemistry, and language other than English, where “D” grades can be validated by successful completion of higher level coursework.

Courses in mathematics and languages other than English completed in the seventh and eighth grades with grades of “C” or better may be counted toward the Subject Requirement. Grades are not calculated into the “a–g” GPA.

The ACT or SAT Reasoning Test is required for both systems. CSU may combine the best verbal and math scores from multiple sittings of SAT and may combine best sub-scores from multiple ACT tests to calculate a best composite. UC will only take the best score from a single SAT Reasoning Test sitting. UC also requires two SAT Subject Tests in two different subject areas.
There are 23 campuses across the State of California from which to apply each with unique aspects that are important ranging from academic programs to physical settings. The priority application filing period is October 1 to November 30. CSU Chico, Fullerton, Long Beach and Sonoma are impacted for first-time freshmen and must apply during the initial filing period. San Diego State is impacted at all undergraduate class levels and San Luis Obispo continues to be impacted on all majors.

The preferred method of application is to apply on-line through CSUMentor at www.csumentor.edu. Downloadable paper applications will also be available at this site. The application fee is $55 per campus. There are fee waivers available for students who qualify. Fee waivers are automatically approved if you qualify when you apply online and will waive the fee for up to 6 schools. New this year, students may now apply for the Educational Opportunity Program online.

The average cost of attendance at a CSU averages around $10,952 for the year for those commuting from home and $16,431 for those living away from home on or off campus. This includes student and health fees but does not include books and supplies, meals and housing and transportation costs.

Each CSU campus, except Maritime, has an Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) for low-income undergraduate students who are California residents and are disadvantaged because of their economic and educational backgrounds. Students with a history of low income who need academic and financial assistance may apply for the program. EOP accepts students who do not meet regular admission criteria, as well as those who qualify for regular admission. Students interested in applying to EOP must check “yes” to the appropriate questions on the CSU application. You will also be required to submit the forms in the EOP application booklet. If you apply online, you can link to the EOP application if you indicate that you are interested in EOP. Check with the EOP office at each campus for the filing deadline date.

The 9 UC campuses available to first-time freshmen offer a wide range of undergraduate programs. The application filing period for admission into a UC campus for Fall 2006 is November 1–30, 2005. Applications will be available October 1 to begin filling out the application. All applications must be postmarked by November 30 to be considered for admission. One applications may be used for any or all of the UC campuses, a $60 processing fee is required for each location. College Board fee waivers are available for those who qualify and will waive the fees for up to four schools.

You can apply using either the downloaded paper copy, or the preferred way online at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply. Fee waivers are available online when you apply and you will be automatically approved or denied.

A personal statement is required to be considered for admission and is an important part of the application. The University uses your statement to learn more about you as an individual—your talents, experiences, achievements and points of view. The personal statement allows you to explain unusual circumstances in your academic career and provide a more complete picture of yourself. This year the prompts have changed and each applicant is required to address each area 1) Academic Preparation, 2) Potential to Contribute, and 3) Open-ended. The personal statement is not solely a sample of writing skills although appropriate grammar, level of usage and spelling are expected; it is not an exhaustive listing of activities, honors, and/or awards (these should be noted on Part V of the Application) but rather a judicious selection of important indicators; and it is not an exaggeration of problems but an acceptance of responsibility for choices and behaviors. Please check with your counselor or EIS/TS College Advisor Aide as they have outlines provided by a few UC schools on what to address for each prompt.

The average University fee are $6,780. Adding books and supplies, room and board and transportation increases this estimated cost to $22,150 per year. Financial aid is available to students who qualify and College INFO will dedicate the Winter issue to this subject.

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) provides assistance to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. To apply, check the appropriate items on the application and discuss your reasons for applying to EOP in your personal statement.

Please note on question 50 you are a participant of EIS/Talent Search by coding in 8 and note that we are a pre-college assistance program. The College Advisor Aide (CAA) will be able to assist you with the dates and hours.
Artesia
Luz Baltazar
Tuesday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Thursday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Banning
Alejandra Martinez
Tuesday
7:45 am - 2:45 pm
Thursday
7:45 am - 2:45 pm
Friday
7:45 am - 2:45 pm

Bell
Miriam Sandoval
Tuesday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Wednesday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Thursday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Cabrillo
Kathy Rothwell
Tuesday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Centennial
Maria Lemus
Tuesday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Thursday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Compton
Gennay Banks
Monday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Wednesday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Dominguez
Treonna Calloway
Tuesday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Thursday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

El Rancho
Melissa Lopez
Tuesday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Thursday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Huntington
Sandra Lopez &
Miriam Baltazar
Monday (SL)
— 7:30 am - 3:30 pm
Wednesday (SL)
— 7:30 am - 3:30 pm
Wednesday (MB)
— 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Friday (MB)
— 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
EIS/Talent Search provides a College Advisor Aide at each of the school sites noted. The CAAs are available to assist you with planning postsecondary requirements, completing college admission applications, college entrance testing information and assistance with financial aid applications. Please visit them at the locations and times noted.

**Jordan**

Sumuel Romero  
**Monday**
8:30 am - 12:00 pm  
**Wednesday**
8:30 am - 4:00 pm  
**Friday**
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

**Lakewood**

Ignacio Hernandez  
**Monday** — 7:30 am - 1:00 pm  
**Tuesday** — 11:30 am - 3:30 pm  
**Wednesday** — 7:30 am - 1:00 pm  
**Thursday** — 11:30 am - 3:30 pm

**Lynwood**

Raven Grissom  
**Wednesday**
8:30 am - 3:00 pm  
**Thursday**
8:30 am - 3:00 pm  
**Friday**
8:30 am - 3:00 pm

**Firebaugh**

Brenda Mendez  
**Monday (FBHS)**
8:00 am - 3:00 am  
**Wednesday (LHS)**
8:00 am - 3:00 am  
**Friday (LHS)**
8:00 am - 3:00 am

**Millikan**

Michael Wilson  
**Tuesday**
8:30 am - 3:00 pm  
**Thursday**
8:30 am - 3:00 pm  
**Friday**
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

**Pioneer**

Malissa Campos  
**Tuesday**
7:45 am - 1:00 pm  
**Thursday**
7:45 am - 1:00 pm  
**Friday**
7:45 am - 3:30 pm

**Poly**

Allison Evans  
**Tuesday**
7:45 am - 2:30 pm  
**Thursday**
7:45 am - 2:30 pm  
**Friday**
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

**South Gate**

Karina Veras  
**Tuesday**
8:00 am - 1:00 pm  
**Thursday**
8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
**Friday**
7:30 am - 1:30 pm

**Wilson**

Emily Cummings  
**Monday**
8:00 am - 3:00 pm  
**Wednesday**
8:00 am - 3:00 pm  
**Friday**
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
California Independent Colleges and Universities

There are 77 California independent colleges and universities. These seventy-seven institutions work together to maintain the high standards of a private college education. They take pride in offering a personal touch with respect to admissions, teaching, and campus environment. At the same time, each campus has its own “uniqueness and individual character” allowing students to choose an institution which most matches them. We highly recommend students research independent schools and consider them as a viable option.

The application fees and filing periods vary per campus, however, many are due in January 2006. Many private colleges and universities require a personal statement and at times an interview in addition to the college application, ACT Assessment, SAT Reasoning Test and/or SAT Subject Tests as part of their admissions process. Check with individual campuses for specific requirements on the California Independent Colleges and Universities website: www.aiccumentor.org. For out of state colleges and universities, visit the College Board website: www.collegeboard.com.

Even though private colleges and universities do have tuition fee’s ranging from $6,000 to $32,000 per academic year, they are still quite affordable considering the financial aid packages student receive. Many colleges will award a student scholarships for having a 3.0 G.P.A. or higher. These awards typically range between 25-50% of tuition expenses. Let’s not forget about Cal Grant A which is proposed to be $7,449 in 2005-2006 for students who met the minimum 3.00 G.P.A. and income guidelines. Additional financial aid can also be provided in the form of federal and state grants, scholarships, work-study and loans to cover college expenses.

Some advantages of attending an independent school are:

- Small classes; most taught by professors that have a Ph.D. and not by teaching assistants.
- Professors are very accessible.
- Emphasis on students being broadly educated by taking liberal arts courses before specializing in a major.
- Students can usually get the classes they need.
- Most students graduate in four years.
- Campus locations tend to be more diverse geographically.
- Most campuses are small residence-based communities.
- Most colleges have enrollments of 2500 students or less.

California Community Colleges

The California Community Colleges are a system of two-year public colleges. There are 109 community colleges throughout the state. The colleges serve 2.8 million students each year and represent the largest system of higher education in the world. College programs may consist of one course or a series of courses leading to a technical/vocational certificate, an associate degree, or preparation to transfer to four-year universities and colleges. All California Community Colleges offer courses that meet lower-division requirements (first two years) of a four-year university.

Vocational programs are unique at each California Community College campus. They prepare students for entry-level employment and career advancement in such fields as law enforcement, animal husbandry, crop production, computer science, computer graphics applications, fire science, electronics, automotive engineering, nursing, accounting, dental assisting and broadcasting. Many colleges work closely with business and industry to offer programs tailored to their employment needs.

Students should contact the community college’s admission office or go to the college’s web page for a complete listing and description of programs.

California residents are charged $26 per unit for community college courses.

A typical course is 3 or 4 units, for a cost of $78 to $104. A student who enrolls in 12 units is considered a full-time student - that student would pay $26 x 12 units = $312 per semester. Colleges may also charge for class materials and add fees for things like health services, parking and student government. Other costs associated with your education include books, supplies, transportation to campus and food and housing. The cost of books varies due to number of courses and number of books required for each course. A full-time student should generally plan on spending approximately $420 each semester for books and supplies.
If you are planning to enroll in a four-year institution as a freshman, one or more of the tests described will be required for admission. The three main tests required are ACT or SAT Reasoning and SAT Subject Tests. Most schools want the scores by the December test dates to determine eligibility for admission. Fee waivers are available to those who qualify.

Admission Exam Dates

For more information on exam costs — both regular and late registration — check out the SAT website (www.collegeboard.com) and ACT Website (www.act.org)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
<th>Late Registration (Last Day)</th>
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<td>September 24, 2005</td>
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<td>November 4, 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 10, 2006</td>
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<td>May 19, 2006</td>
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SAT REASONING and SAT SUBJECT TEST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT Reasoning</th>
<th>SAT Subject Test*</th>
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<td>October 8, 2005</td>
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<tr>
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<td>October 28, 2005</td>
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<td>May 6, 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 3, 2006</td>
<td>April 28, 2006</td>
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* Not all SAT II subject tests are available on the days provided. For more information, please check the College Board Web site at www.collegeboard.com or the registration booklet.
The Educational Information Services/Talent Search Program is funded entirely by the U.S. Department of Education. The total dollar amount for federal funds awarded for the five-year grant period (2002-2007) is $2,407,651. This newsletter is a quarterly publication of EIS/TS. Any suggestions or comments you may have regarding this newsletter are welcome.