

CALIFORNIA EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY (CEFA)

Academic Assistance Grant Program

Information Item

December 6, 2007

BACKGROUND: In 2002, CEFA was authorized to create a competitive grant program to assist eligible private colleges and universities in creating and expanding academic assistance programs that enhance postsecondary educational opportunities for low income and very low-income California students in grades 7 - 12. The goal of the program was to promote access to higher education and to prepare students for college. The program was limited to a total of \$2 million with a cap of \$250,000 per applicant. Nine colleges and universities were awarded grants, paid out over a three-year period. Disbursements of grant funds began in fiscal year 2005-06 and will conclude in fiscal year 2007-08.

PROGRAM UPDATE: The following highlights activities by CEFA staff that occurred since the last update to the Authority in June 2006:

- ◆ Conducted site visits to the nine colleges and universities awarded grants
- ◆ Met with school administrators and student participants
- ◆ Observed actual classroom activities with mentors and program participants
- ◆ Attended closing ceremonies for certain grant programs
- ◆ Personally delivered second-round disbursement checks to school officials

In addition, participating colleges and universities submitted updated status reports in September 2007 as required.

Staff will continue to monitor each school's programs throughout the current school year. A final update will be provided to the Authority in the Fall/Winter 2008.