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Kern Community
College District

Cerro Coso Community College
Office of Financial Aid
3000 College Heights Blvd.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(760) 384-6221

To Whom It May Concern:

The high school student who is presenting the attached Academic Competitiveness Grant Validation Form may be eligible for additional grant money for their college studies. On February 8, 2006, President George Bush signed new legislation that created the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG). This grant is intended to provide additional money for full-time college students who completed a 'rigorous course of study' during their high school years.

Community College Financial Aid Offices can verify all of the eligibility requirements except one. We need your assistance in verifying whether or not the student indicated has passed one of the rigorous courses of study requirement for your school. If you are a California high school, the requirements are included on the enclosed Validation Form. For out of state high schools, please select the appropriate state listing at the following Department of Education's website:

<http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/about/ac-smart/state-programs06.html>

Indicate at which high school and which requirement was met, sign and date the Validation Form and affix your high school seal. If the student has not met the requirements, indicate on the Validation Form. Return the form to the Cerro Coso College Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships.

Sincerely,

Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships

Recent high school graduates may be eligible for an additional grant for up to \$750 for the first year of college and \$1300 for the second year. They must attend college full-time and must be a U.S. citizen (the college will verify these two criteria).

The high school must validate whether the student meets one of the following options for eligibility for the 2006-07 academic year for a student from **California**. For out of state schools refer to the Department of Education website at (<http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/about/ac-smart/state-programs06.html>):

The California Golden State Seal Merit Diploma.

A set of course similar to the State Scholars Initiative. This program of study requires passing grades in the following:

- Four years of English
- Three years of Math (including Algebra I and a higher level course such as Algebra II, Geometry or Data Analysis and Statistics)
- Three years of Science (including at least two courses from Biology, Chemistry or Physics)
- Three years of Social Studies, and
- One year of a Foreign Language

Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and test scores. This program requires a minimum of two Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) course in high school and a minimum passing score on the exams for those classes. Students must score 3 or higher on AP exams and 4 or higher on IB exams.

California A-G Requirements. This program is available to students who complete the normal course requirements for the A-G requirements for admission to the UC or CSU, or complete a modified version of the A-G requirements for admission to the UC or CSU, in which a year-long, career technical education course that meets or exceeds the rigorous academic content standards approved by the State Board of Education may substitute for one of the courses that counts toward the completion of the G requirement.

- A. History/Social Science: 2 years required. Two years of history/social science selected from World History, Cultures and Geography and U.S. History OR a combination of U.S. History, American Government/Civics and Economics equal to one year AND
- B. English: 4 years required. Four years of college preparatory English that includes frequent and regular writing and reading of classic and modern literature. No more than one year of ESL type courses can be used to meet this requirement AND
- C. Mathematics: 3 years required. Three years of college preparatory mathematics that includes the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three- dimensional geometry. Approved integrated math courses may be used to fulfill part or all of this requirement AND
- D. Laboratory Science: 2 years required. Two years of laboratory science chosen from Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Physical Science. Advanced laboratory science classes that have Biology, Chemistry or Physics as prerequisites and offer substantial additional material may be used to fulfill this requirement. Two years of an approved integrated science program may be used to fulfill this requirement AND
- E. Language other than English: 2 years required. Two years of the same language other than English. Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding and instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading, composition and culture AND
- F. Visual and Performing Arts: 1 year required. A single yearlong approved arts course from a single VPA discipline: dance, drama/theater, music or visual art. Courses used to fulfill this requirement must satisfy the five State standards for artistic perception, creative expression, historical and cultural context, aesthetic valuing and connections, relations and application AND
- G. College Preparatory Electives: 1 year required. One year, in addition to those required "A-F" above, chosen from the following areas: Visual and Performing Arts (non-introductory level courses), History, Social Science, English, Advanced Mathematics, Laboratory Science and Language other than English (a third year in the language used for the "E" requirement or two years of another language).