On Sunday, February 8, artists and musicians in the music world gathered in Los Angeles to celebrate and witness the presentation of awards given to outstanding and talented musicians in every conceivable category of music.

The Latino population was overjoyed when an outstanding and talented group of Latina musicians, Mariachi Divas, won the 2009 Grammy Award for Best Regional Mexican Album for their latest CD "Canciones De Amor." They made musical history.

Cindy Shea, director of the Mariachi Divas, spoke proudly of the group's achievement. "Cindy Shea founded the Mariachi Divas in 1999. The group is uniquely multi-cultural, representative of the varied women population of Los Angeles: Mexican, Cuban, Samoan, Argentinian, Columbian, Panamanian, Puerto Rican, Swiss, Japanese, Honduran, Peruvian, Tongan and Anglo. Shea states that "music is a way of uniting our cultural backgrounds."

Mariachi Divas have appeared throughout Southern California venues, including the Arrowhead Pond, Universal Amphitheater, Staples Center, Greek Theater, Santa Barbara Bowl, the House of Blues, 2005 Premio La Gente Awards, and the Shrine Auditorium for the Alma Awards. The group has also accompanied artists including Joan Sebastian, Jenny Rivera, Marco Antonio Solis, Pablo Montero Graciela Beltran and Paulina Rubio, in addition to performing with the world-renowned Mariachi Vargas.

They have performed at the Tucson International Mariachi Concert, Las Cruces Mariachi Conference, Fresno Bilingue Mariachi Show, Annual Fiesta. Continue on page 3

On February 8, 2009, the Mariachi Divas were presented with the Best Regional Mexican Album award for their CD "Canciones De Amor." The group is comprised of talented Latina musicians from diverse cultural backgrounds, and they have been recognized for their contributions to the world of mariachi music. Their achievement not only highlights the talent of women in the mariachi genre but also underscores the importance of cultural diversity and unity through music.

WASHINGTON, DC
Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto) joined a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives to support legislation that will create new jobs, rebuild America's infrastructure, make our nation more globally competitive and energy independent, and transform our economy for long-term growth. H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, passed with a 246 to 183 vote.

Prominent economists estimate H.R. 1 will create and save 3.5 million jobs, while at the same time investing capital quickly into the economy through targeted spending in infrastructure, nutrition and unemployment insurance programs. In addition, 95% of working families will receive an immediate tax cut from the proposal.

"3.5 million American jobs have been lost since this recession began," said Rep. Baca. "The problem is even greater in the Inland Empire, where we suffer from the fifth highest rate of foreclosure in the nation and have an unemployment rate above 10%. This economic recovery bill contains the right mix of targeted government spending and tax cuts to American workers and business - that will create 3.5 million jobs and get our economy moving again."

Of the $789 billion included in the package, $26 billion will be used by California to create new jobs in the areas of clean, efficient energy, science and technology, school improvement, and roads and bridge modernization. In addition, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides the following critical investments:

- $120 billion for investments in infrastructure and science;
- More than $105.9 billion for education and training, to help local school districts avoid the impact of state budget cuts;
- $20 billion increase in the SNAP program (formerly the food stamp program) - to ensure struggling American families will be able to put food on the table;
- $87 billion to help states maintain their health coverage for millions of Americans through the Medicaid program;
- $27.5 billion for highway construction; and
- $8.4 billion for mass transit and rail.

"After being handed a $5 trillion budget surplus, President Bush and his policies drove our nation into a deep recession and left our economy in tatters. This historic bill marks a new direction for America's economy; and can create over 8,000 new jobs alone in my Congressional District," Baca concluded.

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SB COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS DELIVERING OUR INaugural STATE OF EDUCATION ADDRESS  Pg 5
Letter to the Editor

HOMELAND SECURITY CHIEF NAPOLITANO OUTLINES TOP IMMIGRATION PRIORITIES: MILITARISM & MILITARISM

By Roberto Lovato

Looks like Napolitano’s - and Obama’s - version of “hope and change” on immigration means pressing down on the undocumented with even more boots and guns, according to this interview on NPR.

Given the spikes in anti-immigrant hate crimes that continue spilling blood on our streets and given the colossal humanitarian crisis festering in detention centers throughout the country, such a militaristic approach to immigration policy is nothing less than immoral and inhumane. Such an approach begs the questions, “Where is the hope?” and “Is this what you meant by “change’?”

If the Obama Administration continues along this deadly path, I predict that the immigrant rights movement and growing numbers of Latinos will start politically attacking Obama and his backers in DC in anticipation their support for policies that will worsen further the growing humanitarian crisis in detention.

I also predict the Dems and their allies will counter with a modified version of the PR strategy used to promote McCain-Kennedy: focus media on legalization while avoiding or simply paying minimal lip service to detention, raids enforcement and other issues involving the most vulnerable.

By adding more jaded chants of “Si Se Puede” to such grotesque policies, Obama and Napolitano will only make even more of us hear even more clearly the echoes of “Si Se Pudo” politics: sounds similar to something good until you get close to the smell that’s toxically bad.

In such a dangerous climate, a climate in which economic decline worsens the undocumented condition - death in jail, hate crimes, death in deserts, daily doses of dehumanizing media - it is our duty to reject as extremely dangerous and in the most forceful terms any of the “smart enforcement” and other militaristic language and policy used by Napolitano, GOP & Dems and some “immigrant rights advocates.”

Without a powerful pushback against these powerful interests who claim to be “liberal” and “progressive” on immigration reform, their institutional advantages - government bully pulpit & policy leadership, massive foundation funding for polls, media work and even blogging, media predisposition to be DC-centric - will again push non-legalization issues into the gulag of the undocumented.

So, beware: the workings of “hope” and “change” lurked on the horizon.

Robert Lovato-Contributing Associate Editor, New America Media

NATIONAL WRITING CONTEST FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH HEARING LOSS

ROCHESTER, N.Y. - High school students with hearing loss in 10th or 11th grade can use the power of words to express their feelings and win prizes in the fourth annual Rochester Institute of Technology Spirit Writing Contest.

Winners will have their choice of a $500 cash prize, or a scholarship. Travel expenses to explore Your Future program at RIT’s National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) EYF is a six-day summer career exploration program for deaf and hard-of-hearing students that gives them the opportunity to sample different careers as well as college life.

Entries will include creative writing such as a short story or poem, a short writing sample and a personal reflection.

Last year’s winners were Lauren Aggen, of Algonquin, Ill., and Jamie Sloan, of Merkel, Texas.

Complete contest guidelines and entry information are available at www.rit.edu/NTID/WritingContestNR.

The deadline to enter is March 15, 2009. An awards program will be held at RIT in the summer.
SAN MANUEL VICE CHAIRPERSON APPOINTED TO NATIONAL INDIAN MUSEUM BOARD

LYNN VALBUENA, Vice-Chairwoman, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, was appointed to the Board of Trustees for the National Museum of American Indians for a three-year term and ratified by the Smithsonian Institution Board of Regents. Photo courtesy of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

WASHINGTON, DC – The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians announced the appointment of Vice Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena to the Board of Trustees for the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) for a three-year term and ratified by the Smithsonian Institution’s Board of Regents.

The National Museum of the American Indian was established in November 1989 and is the first in the country dedicated exclusively to Native Americans, the first to present all exhibitions from a Native viewpoint and the first constructed on the National Mall since 1987 through the contributions of tribal nations.

“I am honored to have been considered for this important appointment by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC,” Valbuena said. “The National Museum of the American Indian has an opportunity to serve a critical role in bridging the cultural divide between indigenous people and the rest of the world. It’s a wonderful place to learn about indigenous cultures and I look forward to contributing to its success.”

The NMAI is a part of the prestigious Smithsonian Institution and includes 25 members on its board of trustees and operating public museums in Washington.

“Vice Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena is precisely the kind of board member we need,” said Kevin Gover, Director of the museum. “With her leadership skills, knowledge of museums and other non-profits, she will contribute greatly to the museum’s mission.”

Ms. Valbuena has been actively involved in governing boards of the National Indian Gaming Association, the Autry National Center, San Bernardino Valley Lighthouse for the Blind and YMCA. She is chairwoman of the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations in California, and California American Indian Chamber of Commerce.

ABOUT THE SAN MANUEL BAND OF SERRANO MISSION INDIANS

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe established in 1891 as sovereign nation with the right of self-government. The San Manuel tribal community has continued to progressively maintain and enhance its unique form of governance - providing a better quality of life for its citizens through economic diversification, building infrastructure; maintaining civil services and promote social, economic, educational and cultural development. Today, the San Manuel tribal government has continued to pursue opportunities for future generations.

GREATER OVERSIGHT OF FERTILITY CLINICS AND COSMETIC SURGERY CENTERS

Medical consumer protection bill to be introduced in the coming days.

SACRAMENTO, CA - With recent revelations regarding the lack of regulatory oversight and requirements regarding fertility clinics, Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod (D-Chico) will introduce a measure that establishes accreditation standards and guidelines for the operation of these clinics.

The measure will also strengthen the current accreditation standards for the state’s surgical centers to better protect the public because of the increasing number of surgical procedures being performed outside the walls of the hospital.

“It is alarming that the State of California has nobody watching out for patients who go to these fertility clinics or surgical centers. There should be a greater level of scrutiny over these clinics because of their increasing popularity,” said Negrete McLeod.

The measure will bring fertility services to the rest of the world. It’s a wonderful place to learn about indigenous cultures and I look forward to contributing to its success.”

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Inland Empire Hispanic News

Josie Gonzales-San Bernardino 5th District Supervisor Joins AQMD Board

Josie Gonzales, Supervisor for San Bernardino’s 5th District was sworn in today as the newest member of the South Coast Air Quality Management District’s Governing Board.

Gonzales will represent 16 cities in San Bernardino County on the AQMD Board.

Gonzales represents central San Bernardino County on the Board of Supervisors and was elected to that post in November 2004 and re-elected in 2008. Prior to being elected 5th District supervisor, Gonzales spent seven years in public service with the City of Fontana, the last six of those as a City of Fontana Councilmember. She also served as the Chair for the Fontana Redevelopment Agency and was the Chair for the Fontana Downtown Revitalization Task Force.

Her priorities include improving air quality and developing smart growth opportunities in the region.

In 2006, Gonzales initiated a countywide campaign called Healthy Communities to promote exercise, nutrition and the development of walkable communities. As a result of that project, seven San Bernardino County cities – including the cities of Fontana, Rialto and San Bernardino which are part of her supervisorial district – have developed or expanded their Healthy Cities program to help residents make healthy lifestyle choices. She also helped secure a $10 million state grant for the expansion of the Santa Ana River Trail.

In 2007, Gonzales was instrumental in developing the County’s recently approved illegal dumping ordinance. Her colleagues on the Board of Supervisors approved her proposals to use surveillance cameras and a $25,000 reward program to increase the effectiveness of the ordinance.

Last year, a national crime-fighting organization honored Gonzales as “County Supervisor of the Year” for her work developing the anti-illegal dumping program. This month the Women’s Transportation Seminar Inland Empire Chapter presented Gonzales with its “Woman of the Year” award, acknowledging her promotion of regional transportation projects that increase mobility and safely accommodate growth in the Inland Empire.

Gonzales currently serves on 29 boards, committees and commissions. She is chair of the Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County (First 5) and the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center’s Joint Conference Committee. She is also a member of the San Bernardino County Homeless Coalition and the Inland Valley Development Agency.

The lifelong resident of San Bernardino is also a successful small business entrepreneur. With her parents, she owned Mexico Lindo restaurant in Fontana that proudly served the community for 46 years.

AQMD Board members serve four-year terms. Gonzales will serve the remaining portion of former Board member Gary Ovitt’s four-year term ending Jan. 15, 2011.

AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

Senator Boxer Joins Senate Democratic Hispanic Task Force

Senator Barbara Boxer announced her membership in the Democratic Hispanic Task Force in the 111th Congress, there are 45 members of the Task Force, the largest since it was founded 20 years ago. This year, Senator Robert Menendez will serve as the Chairman.

While the Hispanic Task Force is not new to the Senate, its growth indicates the growing importance of Latinos in the legislative and government process. Latinos make up a growing part of the electorate in California and in the nation. Boxer said. She further stated that addressing the issues of concern by Latino voters includes the areas of job creation and strengthening the health care system and schools, very important to every citizen in our nation.

“...I intend to be a very active member in the Senate Democratic Hispanic Task Force. If there are issues of importance that citizens would like to relay to me, I encourage them to contact my office,” Boxer said.

Student Delegation to El Salvador Request for Donation

The Salvadoran University Student Union (USEU) from Cal State L.A., UC Riverside, UCLA, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara, and Cal Poly Pomona.

As a strong supporter of student activism on campuses, we believe you will be excited about an opportunity to help support our student organization. USEU was founded at Cal State L.A. during the fall quarter of 2007 with the mission to involve the Salvadoran student population in issues facing our community. As a student organization we also believe it is vital for our members to have a strong understanding of their historical and cultural background.

As a result USEU in California will be conducting its second annual delegation to El Salvador from February 15th to February 22nd, 2009.

We are proud to announce that thirty students from different California universities have been selected to participate in a delegation. Our goal at Riverside is to raise $2,000 to help students pay for the delegation costs, air fare, and lodging. We are asking for your economic support. As a donor, USEU will provide you with a detailed report of the activities that took place during the delegation; furthermore, we will acknowledge your support at a report back event that we will schedule at Cal State L.A. during the spring quarter.

Thank you in advance for your time and support in helping this worthy cause. Check donations can be made out to “Union Salvadoreña de Estudiantes Universitarios” (Federal Tax #262-4928-81). If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel-free to contact me at the number below.

Kenia Reyes, USEU, UC Riverside, (909) 367-9265 or kreyes115@gmail.com

Psychological Counseling in Tough Financial Times

SAN BERNARDINO — The irony in hard financial times is that men and women tend to neglect or avoid psychological counseling, says Ed Teyber, director of the Community Counseling Center at Cal State San Bernardino. With that, Teyber is emphasizing the services offered by the counseling center, which is again taking appointments now that the new academic quarter has begun.

The Community Counseling Center offers quality confidential counseling services to individuals struggling with depression, anxiety, eating disorders, life changes and relationship problems, including marital issues. Counseling for children or those wishing to work on personal growth are offered as well.

Depending on your income, the center offers 50-minute sessions at a sliding-fee scale beginning at $15. Day and evening appointments are available, and the center also makes referrals. Many clients who want longer-term counseling can be seen throughout CSUSB’s academic year, which continues into June.

The Community Counseling Center is staffed by qualified graduate students and overseen by Cal State San Bernardino faculty, who are licensed psychologists. Teyber has overseen the center since 1979.

The center focuses on counseling for individuals from students to the general public in the Inland Empire. If typically counsels 100 to 200 clients each year, says Teyber. Throughout its long history, the center has counseled with or referred more than 10,000 people who have sought its services. Single parents, coping with the complex challenges of balancing work and parenting make up its highest percentage of clients.

For information, call the CSUSB Community Counseling Center at (909) 537-5569. Also visit the university’s news Web site at http://news.csusb.edu

Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association to Hold Fundraiser

The Inland Empire Latino Lawyers invites friends and family to join in a fundraiser to benefit its legal programs throughout the Inland Empire. The event is a lunch or dinner.

El Torito at the Riverside Plaza. Wednesday, February 25th

From 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

The IELLA Board of Directors will attend for dinner.

***An opportunity drawing for some tequila bottles will take place during the evening. Tickets will be 1 for $2 or 3 for $5.

For information: http://www.iellaalrd.org

IELLA_El_Torito_Fundraiser_February_25.pdf
SAN BERNARDINO, CA — Resolving the California budget crisis with San Bernardino County schools and districts bracing to take an economic hit of $500 million over the next 17 months is paramount to ensuring the long-term academic success of the county’s 428,000 students, said County Superintendent Gary Thomas in his inaugural State of Education Address.

“For our local districts, these are heart-breaking mid-year reductions,” Thomas said in his address. “They take the form of teachers, classified, art, music and sports programs, after-school tutoring, librarians and related services for students. Districts are left with no other choice than to plan for the worst.”

The state budget was one of several highlights of Thomas’ speech, which also focused on academic progress, closing the access and achievement gaps and reducing dropout rates.

Among those who attended the packed Stuiges Auditorium address were Jack O’Connell, state superintendent of Public Instruction, who introduced Thomas, and elected officials, educators and community partners.

In terms of per-pupil funding, California ranks 47th nationally without facing the task of more than $6.6 billion over the next 18 months.

“Is that what the voters of this state want for our children? To be at the bottom of the heap?” Thomas asked without facing the task of more than the worst.”

The prospect of cuts clouds the momentum of student achievement that is being shown in the most recent data. In the state’s most Academic Performance Index (API) scores, San Bernardino County students made gains of 12 points to 716 on the annual measurement of academic progress. A record 28 schools in the county reached the state standard of 800 for API Growth scores.

“Ultimately, for student achievement to soar, the classroom teacher is the most influential factor,” Thomas said. “We can fight for school funding, have world-class standards, build better schools and buy more textbooks, but our efforts will be for naught if we do not have highly effective and well-trained teachers in our classrooms. I want to thank our teachers who everyday, step-by-step, are building our youth into successful, productive adults.”

In addition to the API Growth improvements, nine county schools were able to exit Program Improvement, an intervention program for schools who do not make their Adequately Yearly Progress for two consecutive years under the federal No Child Left Behind legislation. For the second consecutive year, San Bernardino County schools bucked the state trend with decreasing numbers of schools in Program Improvement status.

While there has been improvement in specific areas of the achievement gap — county Hispanic and African American students are significantly closer to White students’ proficiency scores in mathematics on the state Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) results than their peers around the state — there remains an overall persistent and troubling gap between under-represented students and their more advantaged peers.

“It is our students with the greatest needs that I fear will be most harmed by disastrous budget cuts,” Thomas said. “They have the potential to exacerbate the access and achievement gap we are working so hard to address.”

Another concern is the high dropout rates in high school teamed with low college-going rates for county students. The one-year dropout rate for the 2006-07 academic year for San Bernardino County was 7 percent — above the state average of 5.5 percent. The four-year derived dropout rate for the county was 26 percent, compared to 21 percent statewide. High dropout rates translate into low college-going rates.

San Bernardino County ranks 12th from the bottom among California counties for those 25 and older with a high school diploma and 12th from the bottom among California counties for those 25 and older with a bachelor’s degree.

Finding solutions to reversing these trends has been the task undertaken by County Schools, particularly in support to low performing schools and districts to transform the whole system of a school from governance at the district level to directly affecting classroom practice.

Programs addressing these issues include:
- Principal Coaching to help districts grow their own administrators within their own teaching ranks, and supporting the growth of Professional Learning Communities
- Building on the successful work of the PROMISE Initiative, expanding the knowledge base of best practices for English Language Learners.
- Because algebra is critical to students passing the high school exit exam and for college entrance, there has been an expansion of algebra 1 professional development for teachers to align standards, and increase relevance, rigor and success for students.
- Knowing that children in early childhood education and preschool programs start school prepared to learn and show greater success in school, County Schools’ KidsNCare program expanded this past year, providing child care superintendent/governance teams in county districts’ services for 7,000 additional children through CALWORKS contracts.

“In these very turbulent economic times for our state and our nation, we must make the absolute best choices on behalf of our children,” Thomas said. “These are sometimes difficult choices, but I am confident that if we work toward a common purpose, a common good, we can build upon our traditions of excellence, and all of our students will have the opportunity to soar to new heights.”
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON ABRE LA INSCRIPCION A SU PROGRAMA EDISON SCHOLARS

ROSEMEAD, CA - Southern California Edison invita a los estudiantes del último año de la secundaria que planean asistir a una universidad de cuatro años a aplicar a Edison Scholars 2009. Este programa continúa con una tradición que data de casi medio siglo de instituir programas para estudiantes más meritorios la que data de casi medio siglo de instituir programas para estudiantes más meritorios.

"Invertir en los estudiantes y fomentar la excelencia en sus esfuerzos académicos son algunas de las iniciativas filantrópicas más importantes de la compañía", dijo Barbara J. Parsky, vicepresidente primero de comunicaciones corporativas de Edison International. "En Southern California Edison, el valor del conocimiento y nuestro programa Edison Scholars ofrece a los estudiantes más meritorios la oportunidad de obtener una educación universitaria provechosa."

Los interesados en aplicar al programa Edison Scholars deben:
• Ser ciudadano o residente legal permanente de los Estados Unidos.
• Tener un promedio académico (GPA) acumulativo de 2.5 o superior.
• Haber dado los exámenes SAT o ACT y/o cumplir las pautas de matematica, fisica, quimica, o ACT y/o cumplir las pautas de secundaria y vivir o bien asistir a oportunidad de obtener una educacion escolar de excelencia.

Para bajar la solicitud y obtener más información acerca del programa Edison Scholars, incluyendo la lista de escuelas y universidades que califican, entre a www.sce.com/CommunityAndRecreation/Education:<http://www.sce.com/CommunityAndRecreation/Education>.

Las personas a cargo de los empleados y jubilados de Edison International no califican. Vale aclarar que estas becas son costeadas por las acciones y no por los usuarios de las empresas de servicios públicos.

Acera de Southern California Edison:
Southern California Edison, subsidiaria de Edison International:<http://www.edison.com> es la principal compañía electrica de California y abastece a una poblacion de mas de 13 millones de personas a través de 4.8 millones de cuentas en un area de servicio de 50,000 millas cuadradas que conforman el territorio de servicio de SCE.

GREATER OVERSIGHT OF FERTILITY CLINICS AND COSMETIC SURGERY CENTERS

Medical consumer protection bill to be introduced in the coming days.

...Continued from page 3...
SAN BERNARDINO, CA — For the third consecutive year, Cal State San Bernardino has been named by the Corporation for National and Community Service’s Office of Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to disadvantaged youth.

In addition, the university is profiled in a 2009 publication, “Beyond the Books: A Guide to Service Learning Colleges and Universities,” as one of the nation’s cutting-edge service learning programs in higher education.

Both of these awards follow the December announcement that Cal State San Bernardino was selected by the prestigious Carnegie Foundation for Excellence in its 2008 Community Engagement Classification.

“Our Honor Roll selection for the third year in a row is a national validation of CSUSB’s commitment to serve local communities,” said Diane Podolske, director of CSUSB’s Community-University Partnership office.

Podolske said that last year, more than 1,600 Cal State San Bernardino students participated in the university’s 137 course selections that offered a service-learning component.

The Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition that a campus can earn for its commitment to community service and civic engagement. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of criteria developed by The Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the Honor Roll, said. “We salute Cal State San Bernardino for making community service a campus priority.”

The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation.

“I offer heartfelt congratulations to those institutions named to the 2008 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. College and university students across the country are making a difference in the lives of others every day,” said Molly Corbett Broad, American Council on Education president.

For more information about the Corporation for National and Community Service, go to www.national-service.gov.

For more information, contact Cal State San Bernardino’s Office of Public Affairs at (909) 537-5007 and visit http://news.csusb.edu.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER CARTER ANNOUNCES CAL GRANTS

Cal Grants are awarded by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to eligible California students to help pay for college expenses. The awards do not have to be paid back.

More than a quarter of a million Californians use Cal Grants to help pay for college each year. Cal Grants put college in reach for many financially disadvantaged students and can help them in achieving their dreams.

Cal Grant awards may be used at colleges and universities, such as the University of California and California State Universities, community colleges and independent colleges, and qualifying career training institutions such as technical schools, culinary academies and art institutes.

To qualify, California students must meet the necessary 2.0 grade point average (GPA) and other eligibility and financial requirements, and apply by the March 2 deadline.

A student looking for college aid is urged to sit down with a financial aid counselor at the college currently attending or is considering attending. High school students must find out if their school will submit their verified Cal Grant GPA.

All this month, the California Student Aid Commission is sponsoring workshops that you can attend for free. The locations include:

San Gorgonio High School - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Feb. 19, contact Angela Kouns at (909) 889-3439; and New Hope Family Life Center - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 28, contact Katrina Patterson at 909-496-8734.

To apply for a Cal Grant, students must complete two forms, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form. The forms can be downloaded at http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.aspx?id=1177.

Students are encouraged to explore the Cal Grant website at www.calgrants.org and request a look at investment and Cal Grant GPA Verification Form. The forms can be downloaded at http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.aspx?id=1177.

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S.B. DEMOCRATIC LUNCHEON CLUB
San Bernardino Democratic Luncheon Club of San Bernardino meets at noon on Fridays at Democratic Headquarters, 136 Carousel Mall (near the central glass elevator-lower level). Questions regarding the Democratic Club call Mark Alvarez at (909)882 5819.

The following are scheduled speakers:

Feb 20 Gil Navarro, SB County Board of Education Trustee Area D, DropOut Rate and Achievement Gap
Feb 27 Hattie Inge, Black History
Mar 6 Laura Palmer, Project Manager, Children's Disaster Service
Mar 13 David Wilder, Consumer Advocate, Disability
Mar 20 Victor Quiroz, President DAW Local 230, Update on American Auto Industry and Labor
Mar 21 Saturday...Installation Banquet at noon, Elks Lodge on Elks Dr., San Bernardino
Mar 27 Carmen Nevarez, Member Cesar Chavez, Cesar Chavez, an Overview, and Quest for Justice of a Hispanic Teacher

S.B. Luncheon Club website: www.sbdems.com

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Topics include:
- Personal Financial Management
- Low Cost Healthy Eating (in Spanish or English)
- Keys to Success for Career Development
- Diabetes (in Spanish or English)
- Weight Management
- Asthma
- Lupus Support Group

For more information or to register for a class, call us at 909.887.6333 ext. 9-4734.

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New County recruitments this week:
- DNA Technical Leader $70,926-$90,667.20/yr
- Hospital Medical Social Worker $51,625.60-$65,915.20/yr
- Maintenance Supervisor
- PSD Food Service Worker $9.87/hr

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