

THE CCCSFAAA REPORT

Special Edition - Summer 2009

CCCSFAAA ANNUAL CONFERENCE • DEC. 10-12 • SAN JOSE, CA

Working Together We Serve 2009



A publication of the
California Community
Colleges Student
Financial Aid
Administrators
Association

2009 CCCSFAAA Annual Conference Working Together We Serve

By Saul Quiroz and Jorge Trujillo, 2009 CCCSFAAA Conference Co-Chairs

During these past few months, the Conference Committee has been extremely busy working diligently to provide you an excellent experience at this year's conference. Although the conference is still a few months away, the program and logistics are coming together nicely as we try to finalize all the details by the end of summer. We assure you that this conference will be informative for both old

and newcomers alike since we will be focusing our sessions on the regulatory changes and learning this information will be a great value to all!

This year's conference will take place in the beautiful city of San Jose, California from **Thursday, December 10th to Saturday, December 12th**. San Jose has a world-renowned quality of life, offering a wide variety of exciting cultural, recreational,

educational and entertainment opportunities. In addition, San Jose has the nation's best public safety record of any metropolitan area, a marvelous ethnic diversity and a beautiful climate.

The San Jose Convention Center will be the site of the 2009 CCCSFAAA Conference, with the beautiful Fairmont, Hilton Hotel and Towers, and the Marriott Hotel serving as our home during our stay.

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2009 CCCSFAAA Annual Conference ...continued

The rates for these hotels will be \$135 per night (plus applicable taxes and fees) for the Marriott and the Hilton, and \$128 per night for the Fairmont (plus applicable taxes and fees). All three of the hotels are within walking distance of the San Jose Convention Center and only ten minutes from the San Jose International Airport.

We will begin our conference on Thursday, December 10th at 1:00 pm with a welcome from Chancellor Jack Scott during our opening session, which will surely get everyone excited. Two of our other guest speakers during the weekend will be Vice Chancellor Linda Michalowski and Jeff Baker from the U.S. Department of Education. The conference will end on Saturday at 1pm, as the CASFAAA conference starts in the early afternoon on the same day.

In addition to having great speakers, this year's conference will be offering attendees several sessions to choose from, with each session ranging from basic financial aid information to specific programs, such as Cal Grants, veterans benefits, and loans. Those in attendance will benefit greatly from each and every session, as we will attempt to cover some of the most important aspects of financial aid, including professional judgment, loan repayment options, managing cohort default rates, ID theft, customer service, and dealing with people "on the edge." Although this information might seem overwhelming to first time attendees, we will also have a beginners track labeled "Financial Aid Fundamentals" in order for all our newcomers to become acquainted with the world of financial aid.

On Thursday evening, attendees will be able to enjoy hors d'oeuvres while visiting inside of the Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose, one of California's most popular destinations with over 400,000 guests a year. The Tech Museum of Innovation is within walking distance of the Marriott Hotel and will engage all of those in

attendance in exploring and experiencing the technologies affecting our everyday lives. The various interactive exhibits that we will be able to view will ultimately inspire the innovator in each and every one of us, while at the same time showing us not only how technology works, but how it affects who we are and how we live, work, play, and learn.

The registration fee for the entire conference will be **\$270**, while a one-day registration is also being offered for Friday, December 11th at a cost of only **\$195**. **Registration will open on August 5th** and both registration fees above include 2010 CCCSFAAA membership. This year's conference is only \$20 more than last year and that is due to the increase in CCCSFAAA membership fees, which went up by \$20.

We hope that everyone plans to attend this year's CCCSFAAA Conference, as it will be an excellent training event for everyone and a great leadership building opportunity.



Thursday Night... at the Museum

By Annette Ortiz, Conference Program Committee

This year's CCCSFAAA main event will be held **Thursday, December 10th** at **The Tech Museum of Innovation** and is focused on inspiring the innovator in everyone in attendance.

We have reserved the entire lower level, which will consist of four theme galleries:

- **NETPL@NET** – Expand your understanding of Internet beyond e-mail and the Web.
- **Exploration: New Frontiers** – Make an Earthquake, see under the sea, and use the gadgets that take us to places we have only been able to imagine.
- **Innovation: Silicon Valley and Beyond** – Become a Silicon Valley style innovator.
- **Life Tech: The Human Machine** – Experience the "how" of machines that keep us alive and explore technologies which enhance human performance.

All of these hands-on and interactive exhibits, divided among themed galleries, will offer a memorable experience and much more – so don't miss out!



Need a place to stay for the conference? Book your room now!

This year's conference is to be held at the San Jose Convention Center. Adjacent to the conference center are the San Jose Marriott Hotel and the San Jose Hilton Hotel. About three blocks away is the San Jose Fairmont. These are the conference hotels. Information about each is below.

ROOM RATES

Hilton and Marriott: The guest room rate is \$135 single or double occupancy, per night.*

Fairmont: The guest room rate is \$128 single or double occupancy, per night.*

* Room rates above are exclusive of applicable state and local taxes, currently 10.07% plus a \$2.00 per night Hotel Business Improvement Assessment fee.

PARKING

Marriott: \$20 per night for valet parking.

Hilton: 25% off valet parking.

Fairmont: no discounts.

Convention Center (under the Center): Contact the convention center for rates.

CONFERENCE HOTELS

San Jose Marriott

301 South Market Street
San Jose

Phone: 408.280.1300

Fax: 408.280.0212

Website: www.SanJoseMarriott.com

[Click here to Register at the Marriott](#)



(For attendee type, pick CCCSFAA – unless you are attending both CCCSFAA & CASFAA, in which case you will need to pick CCCAS)



San Jose Hilton

300 Almaden Blvd
San Jose

Phone: 408.287.2100

Fax: 408.947.4489

If you are attending **both** CCCSFAA & CASFAA, [click here to Register.](#)

San Jose Fairmont

170 South Market Street
San Jose

Phone: 866.540.4493

Phone: 408.998.1900

Fax: 408.287.1648

[Click here to Register for CCCSFAA, CASFAA or both conferences](#)



State Issues Update

The budget is passed and signed!



By Jacque Bradley, CCCSFAAA President-Elect and State Issues Committee Chair

Lots of issues. Few solutions. The legislature passed the budget and today just after I wrote this article, the Governor signed the budget with some edits. The change that most affects CCCSFAAA membership is his slash of the CSAC administrative budget from \$13,049,000 to \$6,749,000. He has promised to restore \$4,300,000 of that budget if and when legislation is enacted to authorize decentralization of CSAC.

July 1, 2009, Obama signed into law the HEOA corrections bill. It moved the date of implementation (to July 1, 2009) for the Veteran's Benefit changes ruling. As of the 09-10 year, we no longer consider VA benefits when calculating federal need. Unfortunately, this does not automatically change how we calculate need for Cal Grants for Veterans or their benefits. This will require a statutory change and the California legislature has been preoccupied with budget considerations. If California changes the law to follow the federal methodology, it will cost an undetermined amount of money and the legislature is reluctant to spend any money right now. So, unless the legislature acts, we will need to ignore the Veteran's benefits for federal aid, but ask for the information for state aid. Think about how your system might handle this. It may need to be a manual work around. The CCCSFAAA State Issues committee continues to advocate for alignment in the methodology (see the copy of a letter to Nancy Anton sent to the CCCSFAAA list-serve).

A joint federal and state issue is the plan to move everyone to Direct Lending. There is a big concern about how California Community Colleges will adjust to the loss of customer service, training, workshops, default support and other services provided by our guarantors

With the downturn in the economy and increase in unemployment, many of us are struggling with double-digit increases on top of double-digit increase from last year. Few FA offices are able to hire because of severe cuts in the new budget. So it is time for PLAN B. What ideas are you using to stay ahead? Our offices have been closed to students on Fridays except by appointment. That

help eased to pain a couple of years ago, but the combination of 4 ten hour days (with no Fridays) and continual increases in applications means we are still struggling. If your office has come up with a good Plan B to handle the increases, please email me at jbradley@mendocino.edu. I will compile a list of ideas and post to the CCCSFAAA website.

There are lots of things to think about and few definitive solutions. Stay tuned and the CCCSFAAA State Issues committee will keep you apprised of any progress we make.

On another note, I am just past the half way point of my term as President-Elect and I am beginning to plan for the October Transition meeting. One of the things I would like to do in October is expand the membership on some of the committees. In the past, it has been difficult to fill positions on the committees with anyone except the Regional Reps and the Executive Board members. I would like to encourage all CCCSFAAA members to think about using a committee as a small step to getting more involved in CCCSFAAA. Whether you are interested in Federal Issues or Scholarships, there may be an opportunity for you. Check out the Committee list on the CCCSFAAA website at www.cccsfaaa.org/docs/toc_about.html. Then, please email me (jbradley@mendocino.edu) or your Regional Rep if you are interested in any of the committees listed on the CCCSFAAA website.



So, to summarize...

CCCSFAAA ANNUAL CONFERENCE • DEC. 10-12 • SAN JOSE, CA

Working Together We Serve 2009

Dates:

December 10-12, 2009

Location:

San Jose Convention Center

Early Registration:

(Payment must be postmarked no later than November 30, 2009. Includes complimentary 2010 membership.)

FULL CONFERENCE

\$270 through November 30, 2009

ONE-DAY REGISTRATION

(for Friday, December 11th only)

\$195 through November 30, 2009

(Includes complimentary 2009 membership)

Payment must be postmarked no later than November 30, 2009.

Late Registration:

(Includes late fee of \$50 and complimentary 2010 membership. Payment should be made prior to or at the conference.)

FULL CONFERENCE

\$330* through December 10, 2009

ONE-DAY REGISTRATION

\$245 for One-Day registration.

*There will be on-site registration for the 2009 CCCSFAAA Conference at the Late Registration rate. However, if you register at the conference, you must make payment by check then.

Cancellation & Refund:

All requests must be submitted in writing or email to Debbie Soria no later than **November 30, 2009.**

All cancellations will be assessed a \$50 membership dues fee for 2010.

No refund of late fees. All cancellations must complete the web form at www.cccsfaaa.org. Select "Conference," then "Registration," and complete the "Cancel Registration" section.

Payment Inquiries:

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