



# SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF  
CALIFORNIA



## Update from the California Student Aid Commission

July 20, 2023

GSA 2023-36

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Tae Kang *Tae Kang*  
Deputy Director, Program Administration & Services Division

**SUBJECT: 2022-23 Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award Recipient**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces the winner of the Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award Recipient. Each year, high school counselors are nominated by their peers, school faculty, and district/county administrators for outstanding leadership and service to their students.

The winner of the 2022-23 Marmaduke Award is Paula Riesenbeck, from Chaparral High School. Ms. Riesenbeck's outstanding accomplishments as school counselor include, among others:

- Leading her team at Chaparral High School to achieve "Top Ten" status in the Race to Submit in 2022 and 2023.
- Generating a 100% graduation rate for her caseload last year and helping the school raise the college-going rate to nearly 70%. In addition to this, Chaparral High School saw nearly a 15% increase in financial aid application submissions – 4 out of every 5 seniors (83%) submitted a financial aid application.

Ms. Riesenbeck was honored at the Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award Ceremony on June 6, 2023, at Chaparral High, where various family, friends, students, and community leaders were present. The presentation of Ms. Riesenbeck's award includes a California Legislative resolution, a commemorative plaque, and a \$1,500 cash prize sponsored by the Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) Foundation.

Counselors, like Paula, are the reason California has seen a significant statewide increase in financial aid application submissions - with 2 out of every 3 high school seniors submitting Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA).

For more information on the Marmaduke Award eligibility criteria and the nomination and selection processes, please [visit the Arthur S. Marmaduke Award page](#) on the Commission's website.

**Need to contact us?**

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