

SPECIAL ALERT



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Update from the California Student Aid Commission

April 22, 2024 GSA 2024-24

TO: High School Counselors

FROM: Tae Kang Tae Kang

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SUBJECT: 2023-24 Arthur S. Marmaduke HS 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 2023-24 Marmaduke Award is Adriana Huezo Ayala, from Segerstrom Fundamental High School. Ms. Huezo Ayala's exceptional accomplishments as a school counselor include:

- Facilitating student conferences to compose personalized action plans for academic success and postsecondary options, organizing university field trips, and creating and leading the "I Can Go to College" Pledge.
- Organizing various financial aid activities and college events in both English and Spanish, where her team collaborated with financial aid officers from local colleges and universities to provide one-on-one assistance to all seniors with completing their FAFSA/CA Dream Act Application and their college applications. Over 400 students and parents participated, which led to a 98% financial aid application submission rate.

Ms. Huezo Ayala was honored at the Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award Ceremony on April 19, 2024, at Segerstrom High, where various family, friends, students, and community leaders were present. The presentation of Ms. Huezo Ayala's award includes a California Legislative resolution, a commemorative plaque, and a \$1,500 cash prize sponsored by the Hass Jr. Fund.

For more information on the Marmaduke Award eligibility criteria and the nomination and selection process, please <u>visit the Arthur S. Marmaduke Award page</u> on the Commission's website.

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