

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
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September 23, 2009

Columbia College Chicago Students, Administration, Faculty, and Staff:

As you all know, funding for the student aid need-based Monetary Award Program (MAP) was cut by nearly \$200 million dollars this year. At a time when financial need is at an all-time high, the State of Illinois has informed approximately 130,000 eligible students that they will not be receiving any financial aid from the program beginning this Spring semester.

This letter is the beginning of a college-wide campaign from the Student Government Association (SGA) in collaboration with Columbia administration, and the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities (FIICU). Together, we are to be a leading resource in the education of the Columbia College community about the facts of the cut in funding, and in the creation of actionable programs for you to show your support and voice your opinions at the campus, city, and state levels.

Over 3,000 students at Columbia depend on the Monetary Award Program. These are your classmates, your students, your colleagues, and your friends; and many of them may not return to Columbia in January unless we, as a united body, speak up and take action.

Beginning in October, the SGA will have multiple campaign tables set up around campus. Student representatives will be available to speak to you more in depth about MAP grants and any concerns you may have. We will provide you with a letter to sign showing your advocacy for the restoration of MAP funding, and mail it to your Representatives and Senators on your behalf. There will be laptops accessible for you to join the thousands of students across Illinois who have signed the online petition asking the state to fully fund MAP. This petition can be found at [www.thepetitionsite.com/1/saveillinoismapgrants](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/saveillinoismapgrants).

On Tuesday, September 29, at 2pm, Governor Quinn will be hosting a town hall meeting regarding MAP at the University of Illinois Chicago. We will take the pink line to the UIC campus together, as a community, to show our unwavering support for our fellow students. Please come to the Loft in 916 South Wabash Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, at 1:00pm to join us for this significant event.

On Thursday, October 15, the SGA will be taking a bus to the Illinois State Capital Building in Springfield to lobby State Senators and Representatives to reinstate MAP funding. This is a major event and an outstanding opportunity to make a difference in so many lives, and we need you in attendance to do it. To receive more information or to confirm your attendance at this event, please email [sga@colum.edu](mailto:sga@colum.edu).

A MAP grant is an advancement towards economic independence, personal achievement, and an ability to contribute to our communities and our economy. Slashing funding that offers these kinds of long-term benefits to students and to society was truly short-sighted. Please join us in supporting our fellow students. Speak out and take action against this destructive incident in higher education.

For more information about the Monetary Award Program, ways to get involved, example letters, and talking points, please visit [www.colum.edu/sga](http://www.colum.edu/sga).

Thank you in advance for your support,

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