

**Councilman**  
**TONY CARDENAS**  
6<sup>th</sup> Council District



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **CARDENAS TELLS L.A. STUDENTS TO CASH IN**

*High school students say they are thankful someone 'showed them the money'*



Today Councilmember Tony Cardenas announced how Los Angeles students can get their hands on cash for college. Cardenas, along with Los Angeles Unified School District officials, kicked off the Free Cash for College Project today at Francis Polytechnic Senior High in Sun Valley. They also accepted a contribution in the amount of \$25,000 from American Express for the project that is designed to help students and their parents access financial aid for higher education. The campaign helped more than 10,000 students in its first year.

*“ If you want to go to college, you can go,”* said Councilmember Cardenas. *“I wish I would have had this project when I was in school. My parents both had less than a sixth-grade education and I saw how difficult it was for them to support us. I come from a family of eleven, so I understand how important financial aid is and how important it is to send the message to lower-income families that the money is there. You just have to know how to take advantage of it.”*



Councilman Cardenas and Polytech Senior Cindy Garcia discuss student loan options.

The College and Career Convention will be held at the Los Angeles Convention Center on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Students and families will be given information on the kinds of grants available and how to go about applying.

*“ My parents don't know how to apply for loans,”* said Polytech Senior Cindy Garcia. *“We didn't even know programs like this existed because there isn't enough information out there. I've always felt it was mostly up to me. Just knowing I can take them to the convention makes me feel more at ease about my possibilities after graduation.”*

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