

## Testimonial – James Marnell, Financial Aid Tools Transcript

Narrator: CaliforniaColleges.edu. Discover. Plan. Launch. The State of California's Official College and Career Planning Platform.

James: My name is James Marnell. I'm a College and Career Counselor here at Patriot High School in the Jurupa Unified School District.

Narrator: How have you used CaliforniaColleges.edu to support your students?

James: Our community, there's a significant amount of families that are, you know, blended families. A tree of which parent or parents students are supposed to report can get rather confusing. We have some undocumented students as well, and so just understanding, you know, should they be doing the California Dream Act application or FASFA, how to go about getting FSID, who's eligible for FSID, whose information to report.

One thing I really appreciate in the financial aid aspect with CaliforniaColleges is for students. Going to those slides and those prep slides and getting understanding for themselves which one they should be choosing, and then selecting which one they want, or they're eligible for, and then kind of presetting that, that's going to launch to the correct application

Narrator: Throughout the video, the CaliforniaColleges.edu website is shown highlighting its financial aid lessons and financial aid application status report.

James: I think really helps increase accuracy, obviously, and it gives students confidence that they're on the right track.

Narrator: What has the impact been on your students?

James: You know, it enables me to prioritize maybe the fall, more on students to make sure they're applying for colleges by the deadlines, and then thus it's really important that they're meeting the Cal Grant deadline. Roughly every couple weeks, to a month we're running reports and finding out which students have applied and who haven't. And just, you know, reaching out to those students and working with the report to help them get the, you know, applying by the deadlines.

I think previous to CaliforniaColleges in my career, and I would say this for most counselors, you kind of just had to keep your own files. You just basically were only going to find out if they applied if a kid told you. So for me to be able to quickly download these reports, it just gives a lot of confidence to know that we're on track. Being able to show a student where they are with things and know we're on the same page. It's, you know, fantastic.

Narrator: CaliforniaColleges.edu. Discover. Plan. Launch. Visit [CaliforniaColleges.edu/learnmore/](https://CaliforniaColleges.edu/learnmore/) to learn how you can get started.

End of: Testimonial – James Marnell, Financial Aid Tools Transcript  
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