



NEWS RELEASE

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New Leadership for California Student Aid Commission

Chairman Peter Hankwitz, Vice-Chair Lorena Hernandez, and Secretary Yasmin Delahoussaye Elected to Guide State's Postsecondary Education Financial Aid

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA—At its June 26-27, 2008, meeting, the California Student Aid Commission elected Peter Hankwitz as Chair of the Commission; Lorena Hernandez, Vice-Chair, and Dr. Yasmin Delahoussaye, Secretary, for 2008-09.

"Making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians in today's economic climate is extremely challenging," said Commission Chair Hankwitz. "Enrollment is surging at many of our community colleges and other post-secondary institutions, budgets are being trimmed, and students' personal financial resources are stretched more than ever. As the state student loan guaranty agency for California, and as administrators of the Cal Grant Program, among others, we have an obligation to take an innovative and comprehensive approach to the deployment of state and federal resources to help students achieve their higher educational goals. And I am honored to lead this effort."

"I look forward to working with the new leadership of the Commission," said Executive Director Diana Fuentes-Michel. "The State will benefit from their vast knowledge and experiences in higher education and the private sector."

Peter Hankwitz founded Peter Hankwitz Production & Management in 2000 and currently serves as executive producer. Hankwitz was co-founder of Starbar Entertainment and Reburn & Hankwitz Creative Agency. He is co-founder of the Robert Urich Foundation for Cancer Research and Patient Care and is past community advocate for the Yucca Corridor Gang Abatement Project in Los Angeles. He is a member of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and The Next Generation Council of the Motion Picture & Television Fund.

Lorena Hernandez was appointed to the Commission in 2007. Hernandez is the California Regional Director, Communications for Comcast Corporation. Prior to Comcast, Hernandez served as Vice President of Communication and Community Development for the Marchese Company, Vice President of the Walther Kaitz Foundation, Communications Program Officer at the California HealthCare Foundation and Associate Director of Media Relations for Children Now. Hernandez has more than 18 years of experience in media relations, public relations, government relations and community development.

Dr. Yasmin Delahoussaye was appointed to the Commission in 2007. In 1998, Delahoussaye was appointed as the Vice President of Student Service of Los Angeles Valley College, where she oversees all areas of Student Services and serves as the college's administrator in charge of student discipline. She also served as the college's Dean of Student Services. Prior to joining Valley College, she served as counselor, matriculation coordinator, director of school relations and outreach and articulation officer at Pierce College. She began her career with the Los Angeles Community College District in 1988, after spending 15 years as a high school teacher and counselor in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Delahoussaye has received city, state, and national awards for her non-profit organization that works with disadvantaged youth.

The Student Aid Commission is the State's principal provider of State-administered financial aid to postsecondary students. The 15-member Commission is the designated state student loan guarantee agency for California and oversees the activities of its non-profit student loan services auxiliary, EDFUND.

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