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Marlene L. Garcia Appointed to the California Student Aid Commission as Executive Director

Sacramento, CA (2019) – The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce the appointment of Marlene L. Garcia as the Commission’s Executive Director. Ms. Garcia will start at the Commission May 1, 2019. She will lead the Commission during a critical time for California as she addresses rising tuition costs - the total cost of attendance, and housing and food insecurities for California students. Her transformational leadership has never been more vital in California.

Garcia joins the Commission after serving more than six years as a national leader in Apple Inc.’s Education Strategic Initiatives Group. Additionally, in her distinguished career, she has served as the Vice Chancellor of Government Relations for the California Community College System, Deputy State Policy Director for the California State University System, and as a Senior Policy Consultant in the Senate Education Committee. She also served as a senior higher education advisor to former Assembly Speaker Willie L. Brown, Jr.

Ms. Garcia holds a master’s degree in public policy from Claremont Graduate University and a bachelor’s degree in Spanish Literature from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Commission Chair Dr. Lande Ajose is excited and eager to welcome Garcia to the Commission, citing her leadership, drive and experience. “Executive Director Marlene Garcia has a proven track record in higher education policy and is an outstanding choice for the Commission at this pivotal time of Cal Grant reform. With her background, skills and expertise, Marlene will provide strong leadership as the Commission guides California through this season of change.”

Garcia said she is eager to join the Commission. “I am honored to be selected to lead the California Student Aid Commission at time when keeping higher education affordable and re-envisioning how we support our students is more important than ever,” Garcia said. “As a former Cal Grant recipient myself, I know first-hand the power of a Cal Grant award to help drive student success.”

To read more about Ms. Marlene Garcia, her biography and a list of her accomplishments, visit our website: www.csac.ca.gov/commission-senior-management-staff.

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The California Student Aid Commission is the state’s policy leader in the administration of financial aid for higher education, making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians. California Student Aid Commission serves the needs of not only today’s college students but tomorrow’s students, guiding them through the application process. Information and tools are available online for the parents of tomorrow’s college and career technical students, a fully staffed call center answers questions and the

California Student Aid Commission provides workshops and funds grants to organizations that provide access opportunities for students who are first in their family to attend institutions of higher education. For more information on how the California Student Aid Commission serves to educate, inform, and support students, their educational institutions, and the professionals who assist them please visit our website at <https://www.csac.ca.gov> or follow us on [Twitter](#) @castudentaid.