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**A MESSAGE FROM CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION CHAIR, SENATOR BARRY KEENE:**

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) met on January 26, 2012. Agenda topics included a discussion of the Governor's 2012-13 proposed budget.

Retired Senator Barry Keene issued the following statement on behalf of the Commission:

*"The California Student Aid Commission sees higher education as an investment in California's future. Education is the economic imperative of our time and the civil rights issue of our generation. Access to higher education is the basis for the formation of our democratic society. As the stewards of access to opportunity for higher education, we urge the Legislature to give the highest priority to students in the budget during this time of financial downturn."*

The Commission will meet again on February 23 – 24, 2012 in Sacramento to hold a hearing on e-learning in California's colleges and universities and to hear an analysis of the potential impact of the Governor's proposed cuts to the Cal Grant program.