



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION HERALDS NEW LEADER *Fuentes-Michel to Assume Key Leadership Role***

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA — The California Student Aid Commission enters a new phase of its nearly 50-year legacy by announcing the appointment of Diana Fuentes-Michel as Executive Director. Fuentes-Michel assumes her position on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The California Student Aid Commission administers California's multi-million dollar Cal Grant program that enables thousands of students annually to attend college. In addition, it oversees the activities of its non-profit student loan services auxiliary, EDFUND.

Fuentes-Michel joins Commission Chair C. Michael Cooney of Santa Barbara in a key leadership role. "Diana brings over twenty years of experience in higher education program administration, policy development and state and federal governmental advocacy," said Chair Cooney. "The Commissioners join me in congratulating her on her appointment to this key position. We are confident she will enhance the Commission's commitment to making postsecondary education financially accessible to all Californians."

An alumna of Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, Fuentes-Michel used a Cal Grant to help pay for her college education. She completed her Master of Arts degree in Government at California State University, Sacramento before beginning a distinguished career in state government. Starting as a legislative assistant for the California State Assembly, she later joined the staff of the California Postsecondary Education Commission. In October 2000, Governor Gray Davis appointed her as the Undersecretary for Education with the Governor's Office of the Secretary for Education. Most recently, she has served as the Director of Educational Outreach, Public Affairs with the University of California's Office of the President and as Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations and External Affairs with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

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Among her long list of awards, Fuentes-Michel includes the Camellia Award from the Comision Femenil Mexicana of Los Angeles; a lifetime membership in Alpha Sigma Nu, the National Jesuit Honor Society; and, selection as a participant in the Los Rios Community Colleges Faculty Internship Program.

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*The California Student Aid Commission is the state's principal provider of intersegmental statewide grant aid to postsecondary students. Founded in 1955 as the California State Scholarship Commission, the Commission's primary programmatic responsibilities include operation of the Cal Grant program, which will distribute over \$650 million to California's college students during the 2003-2004 school year, and several targeted state scholarship and loan forgiveness programs. The 15-member Commission oversees the activities of its non-profit student loan services auxiliary, EDFUND. The Commission is headquartered in Rancho Cordova, California.*

California Student Aid Commission and its associated graphic are the service mark of the California Student Aid Commission.