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Student Aid Commissioners Ajose, Cifuentes, and Greig Re-elected

Sacramento, CA (2019) – For the second year in a row, the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) has elected an all-woman leadership team. Commissioners voted their continued support for Dr. Lande Ajose as Chair of the Commission; Catalina Cifuentes as Vice Chair; and Dr. Judith Greig as Secretary at the final meeting of 2018.

Dr. Ajose has been executive director of California Competes, which develops and advocates for bold yet pragmatic policies to boost California's postsecondary degree attainment. Her background in higher education spans college admissions at Vassar College, education and workforce development at the James Irvine Foundation, and research and evaluation at MDRC, where she managed a comprehensive evaluation of the Achieving the Dream initiative. In 2014 and again in 2018, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. appointed her to the California Student Aid Commission, where she currently serves as Chair, and in 2016 Governor Brown appointed her to the Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education. She serves on several boards and commissions, including the WASC Senior College and University Commission, the Institute for Higher Education Policy, and on the advisory committee of the Higher Education Policy Center at the Public Policy Institute of California. She earned a Master of Arts degree in urban planning from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Public Affairs and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Vice Chair of the Commission, Ms. Cifuentes is currently Executive Director of a unit that works with education leaders and community stakeholders to support and increase a college-going culture in Riverside County's K-12 schools. She has previously been acknowledged for her work as the lead counselor at Santiago High School, Corona-Norco Unified School District where the counseling team designed a successful guidance program that led to Riverside County, as well as California Department of Education, recognitions for exemplary counseling practices. The National Association for College Admission Counseling recently acknowledged Ms. Cifuentes with the Inclusion, Access, and Success Award for her outstanding efforts in making postsecondary opportunities available to historically underserved students. Ms. Cifuentes has been a champion of the successful Race to Submit campaign to increase financial aid application submissions that began in 2017.

Dr. Greig continues her role as the Commission's Secretary and has served as Notre Dame de Namur University (NDNU) President for more than a decade and has earned national recognition for community engagement and as an advocate for disadvantaged students. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Wheaton College (IL), a Master of Arts (MA) in Reading Education from Santa Clara University, a second MA in Philosophy and a Doctor of Philosophy in Education from Stanford University. Dr. Greig also serves on the Boards of Directors of the Council of Independent Colleges, the Executive Board of California Campus Compact, and the Executive Committee of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities.

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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 and [Facebook](#) <https://www.facebook.com/CSAC.StudentAidCommission/>.