



P. O. Box 419026 Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9026 (916) 464-8043 www.csac.ca.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: CSAC MEDIA RELATIONS 916-464-8043
Email: CSACmediarelations@csac.ca.gov

State Superintendent Tony Thurmond Appoints Student Aid Commissioner to Lead Performance, Planning, and Technology Branch

Sacramento, CA (2019) – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced today that he has appointed California Student Aid Commissioner Catalina Cifuentes as Deputy Superintendent of the Performance, Planning, and Technology branch of the California Department of Education. Her branch oversees programs promoting innovation and improved student achievement, including statewide student assessment, school and district interventions, state and federal accountability, and the collection and reporting of educational data.

Since 2018 Ms. Cifuentes has served as Vice Chair of the California Student Aid Commission (Commission). She was appointed to the Commission by Governor Jerry Brown in 2016. Most recently she served as the Executive Director of College and Career Readiness at the Riverside County Office of Education. For her work coordinating counselors, leading career-readiness initiatives, and directing the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, she won the county's Education Administrator of the Year Award. Among others, she won the 2018 National Association of College Admission Counseling (NACAC) Inclusion, Access, and Success Award, honoring her work making post-secondary opportunities available to historically underrepresented students.

She holds a bachelor's degree in English Literature from California State University, San Bernardino and a master's degree in Educational Counseling from Azusa Pacific University. She earned her California Teaching Credential from the University of California, Riverside.

###

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/>.