



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

December 04, 2015

GSA 2015-53

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
High School Counselors

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler 
Chief, Program Administration & Services Division

SUBJECT: **Lupita Cortez Alcalá – New Executive Director**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce the appointment, by unanimous vote, of Lupita Cortez Alcalá as its next Executive Director. Ms. Cortez Alcalá will start her new position at the Commission on January 4, 2016.

Ms. Cortez Alcalá leaves the California Department of Education (CDE) where she has served for the past 12 years. She began her career at CDE in 2003 as a Legislative Associate and also served as Director of the Government Affairs Division. She has a master's degree from the Harvard University School of Education and serves as Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

During her tenure, Ms. Cortez Alcalá oversaw the creation of the English Learner Division, revamped the Migrant Education Program, initiated the Seal of Biliteracy to recognize students fluent in two or more languages, and worked with CDE staff to develop the English Language Arts/English Language development framework and standards, which aim to improve language development for English learners.

In addition, she oversaw the implementation of the \$500 million California Career Pathways Trust (CCPT) grants and initiated CDE's first California Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Symposium.

Ms. Cortez Alcalá is looking forward to serving the students of California in her new role as Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission. [Press Release](#).

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