



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICERS**

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA — Today, the California Student Aid Commission announces a new slate of officers who start their responsibilities immediately – David Roth of Los Angeles, chair of the Commission; Maria Elena Serna of Lodi, vice chair; James Fousekis of Berkeley, treasurer; and, Charles Moore of San Francisco, secretary. The California Student Aid Commission administers California's 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.

"I congratulate the Commission's new leadership and look forward to working closely with them on issues impacting higher education access and affordability," said Diana Fuentes-Michel, executive director of the Commission. "It is an honor to be working with such distinguished leaders from California's higher education community and private sector."

Chair David Roth joined the Commission in January 2000 and has served in a variety of capacities, most recently as acting Commission chair and vice chair of the Commission's Outreach Committee. In addition, he has been a prominent member of the Commission's Federal Loan and EDFUND Oversight, Grants and Programs, and Governmental Relations Committees. As deputy to the president at Occidental College in Los Angeles, Chair Roth interacts with the many local and national educational organizations, policy-making entities and community groups with which Occidental has developed partnerships in service to elementary, secondary and post-secondary students. Chair Roth also provides direction to a national collaborative he co-founded called the Pathways to College Network, and provides advice on professional development to a number of Departments and Ministries of Education around the world. Immediately prior to coming to Occidental College, Roth served as director of education and government affairs at the Fulfillment Fund, an educational non-profit organization providing financial aid and mentoring services to low-income and traditionally under-served students in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

"It is with great pleasure that I look forward to my term as chair of the Student Aid Commission," states Roth. "We have much ahead of us as we work with the Administration and members of the

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state Legislature to maintain the Commission's commitment to making postsecondary education financially accessible to all Californians. It is a valuable effort."

An active and dedicated member of the Commission since January 2000, Maria Elena Serna, vice chair, has most recently served as secretary to the Commission, and currently serves the Commission as chair of the Governmental Relations and the Educational Savings Programs Committees. In addition, she serves as a member of the Outreach Committee. An educator since 1973, and an active supporter of higher education, she recently retired from teaching American Government at Bear Creek High School in Lodi, California where she was the social science chair. During her distinguished career in education, Commissioner Serna was elected to the San Joaquin Delta Community College Board of Trustees in 1990 – the first Latina to be elected to public office in San Joaquin County – and served twice as the president of the Board. Always concerned about educational issues at the local level, she served as the chair of the Board of Trustees' Committee on Relations with Minority Communities, and as the central California chair for the American Association of Community College Trustees.

James Fousekis, treasurer, has worked diligently on behalf of California's students as a member of the Commission since 2000. Among his many contributions, he currently serves as chair of the Commission's Audit Committee, vice chair of the Governmental Relations Committee, and as a member of the Federal Loan and EDFUND Oversight, and the Fiscal Policy and Long-Range Planning Committees. He brings to the Commission his outstanding 35-year career as a lawyer, and now as a partner with Piper Rudnick LLP of San Francisco. His wife, Susan, and he established the James T. and Susan C. Fousekis scholarship for needy students at the University of California, Berkeley. They have supported a number of other community activities including the San Francisco Symphony, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Young Musicians Program at UC, Berkeley. Commissioner Fousekis has served as chair of the Friends for the Center for Independent Living, is the former vice president of the Yale Law School Association, and is a former member of the Chancellor's Capital Campaign Cabinet at the University of California

Charles Moore of San Francisco, secretary, joined the Commission recently. He brings an extensive and distinguished background in California's private sector as CEO of Acendi Corporation, an information technology firm. Commissioner Moore founded and served in a variety of senior management positions, including president of OnStation Corporation, a leading provider of automotive industry customer relationship management (CRM) solutions. Prior to his position with OnStation, Commissioner Moore practiced corporate law at Venture Law Group in Menlo Park, California. He also serves on the Board of Directors of CompuMentor, a leading provider of technical support, software, and equipment to nonprofit organizations nationwide.

For further information on the California Student Aid Commission, the Cal Grant Program and other financial aid opportunities for college-bound students, visit [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) or [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org) .

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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 \$612 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.*