

**Resolution**  
of the  
California Student Aid Commission  
honoring  
**Marlene L. Garcia**

***Whereas,** Marlene Garcia was selected and served as the 7th Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission in May 2019 to June 2024, steering the Commission through the unprecedented pandemic; and,*

***Whereas,** Marlene Garcia brought to the Commission her belief in the transformative change and opportunity of a postsecondary education to the state of California's most marginalized populations, including low-income, minority, and undocumented individuals; and,*

***Whereas,** Marlene Garcia's impact on the Commission produced three Commission workgroups which led to positive policy change in the Cal Grant programs, how we approach student access to food programs and other basic needs and creating equitable access for undocumented students in California; and,*

***Whereas,** California saw record high financial aid application completion rates in California with the "All In" campaign with Marlene Garcia's focus on the positive impact of policy and the need to have students apply and be aware of all the resources available; and,*

***Whereas,** Marlene Garcia championed the modernization of the California Student Opportunity Program to meet the needs of students and families as they navigated the postsecondary journey, many for the first time; and*

***Whereas,** through the work done during the workgroup on equitable access to postsecondary resources, Marlene Garcia shepherded through many changes, both internally and through legislation to improve the California Dream Act Application for undocumented students; and,*

***Whereas,** Marlene Garcia successfully innovated revenue streams and created philanthropic partnerships with legislation permitting the Commission to accept philanthropic support for many of the Commission's successes in external communications and navigating the Better FAFSA rollout, and,*

***Whereas,** Marlene Garcia found innovative ways to bolster smaller programs to have a larger impact on students with legislation to financially support California Community College students that transfer to Historically Black College and Universities with grant funds; and*

***Whereas,** Marlene Garcia led the historic expansion of the Cal Grant California Community College entitlement led to over 172,000 students receiving a paid award; and,*

***Therefore, be it now***

***Resolved,** the Commission and its staff commend Marlene Garcia for her guidance as an Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission, and be it further*

***Resolved,** the Commission and its staff wish her continued personal success in her future endeavors.*

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*Catalina Cifuentes*  
Chair

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*Catalina Mistler*  
Chief Deputy Director