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**STATEMENT FROM THE CALIFORNIA FACULTY ASSOCIATION IN RESPONSE TO  
THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S MIDDLE CLASS TASK FORCE**

“The California Faculty Association, the largest organization of college and university faculty members in the U.S., applauds the creation of a Task Force for the Middle Class by President Obama’s administration. Our 24,000 members who teach the 450,000 students on the 23 California State University campuses fully intend to participate in the initiative.

The American Dream is under assault. To preserve it for the future we need a public education system that will give us a competitive advantage in today’s global economy – and that means enacting broad, fundamental change in how we think about, fund, and involve the people of our nation in higher education.

The stimulus plan proposed by President Obama and passed by the House is an immediate down payment, but to truly address the structural issues that imperil the American Dream for the Middle Class we need a long-term plan that will create a 21st Century higher education system for the 21st Century economy.

Simply put, America is losing the competitive educational advantage that has long been the passport for the Middle Class to the American Dream - and we are losing this advantage because we do not have a 21st Century higher education strategy.

Our nation must expand its thinking about education to make it a right for every student from preschool through college. Just as important, Bachelor’s Degrees must replace High School Diplomas as the goal for our kids – and every single student must have the opportunity to attend a higher education institution.

This is the type of revolutionary reform our public education system needs if this country wants to achieve economic prosperity and meet the challenges of a 21st Century economy.

The preservation of the American Dream depends on it and we are encouraged that the Obama-Biden Administration recognizes that rebuilding higher education must be on the agenda. ”

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