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Contact:

Beth McGovern, Executive Director

Phone: 916-730-3193 Email: bmcgovern@women.ca.gov

Academy Award®-Winner Geena Davis Elected New Chair of the California Commission on the Status of Women

Los Angeles, CA - Academy Award®-winning actor Geena Davis has been elected the new chair of the California Commission on the Status of Women, it was announced today at an event at Mount St. Mary's College when the College released its *Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California*.

Davis has served as an appointee for two years on the Commission, a nonpartisan state agency that promotes equality and justice for all women and girls by advocating on their behalf with the governor, the legislature and other public policy makers. "I am honored to lead the critical work of the Commission to improve the lives of all women and girls in California," Davis said. "It's not just an issue of gender equality; it's also an economic issue. Addressing inequalities is good not only for women, but also for California as a whole."

The Commission partnered with the College on Thursday's event to shine a light on the 18.7 million women and girls who call California home, a number representing more than half of the state's residents. *The Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California* brings together an unprecedented bank of statistics on demographics, education, employment and earnings, poverty, leadership, media and technology, physical health, mental health, violence and incarceration. Davis, a speaker at the event, also founded the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media.

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The California Commission on the Status of Women is a state agency established in 1965. The Commission is mandated to study issues affecting women and to advise the California Legislature and State Agencies on inequities in laws, practices and conditions that impact women.

