



**Media Contact:**  
Shae Collins  
[shae@collegecampaign.org](mailto:shae@collegecampaign.org)  
(310) 977-1028

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 29, 2021

**SECRETARY OF STATE DR. SHIRLEY N. WEBER RECOGNIZED AS A STUDENT-CENTERED  
RACIAL EQUITY CHAMPION**

**Sacramento, CA** – The Campaign for College Opportunity recognized newly confirmed Secretary of State Dr. Shirley N. Weber with a ***Distinction in Elevating Racial Equity*** for championing fighting to level the playing field by reversing the ban on affirmative action and removing systemic barriers that disproportionately keep Black and Latinx students from attending and succeeding at California’s public colleges and universities.

“Last year, as the nation faced a racial reckoning brought on by decades of racism and injustice, Dr. Weber’s answered the call, introducing ACA 5 and Proposition 16 to reignite a conversation about the urgent need for affirmative action and other race-conscious policies to close racial disparities in hiring and college admissions,” said Jessie Ryan, executive vice president of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

Assemblymember Weber’s *Distinction in Elevating Racial Equity* award was presented by University of California Student Association President Aidan Arasasingham at the Campaign for College Opportunity’s second annual Legislative Dean’s List Reception, a virtual event celebrating the extraordinary work of California legislators and staffers for their commitment to increasing college access and success, ensuring racial equity, and prioritizing higher education. She was honored on January 27<sup>th</sup> alongside Assemblymember Philip Ting (AD-19), Los Angeles County Supervisor (2<sup>ND</sup> District) Holly J. Mitchell, Assemblymember Jose Medina (AD-61), and Aleksandra Reetz, policy advisor to the California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis. The event hosted higher education leaders and advocates, elected officials, civic leaders, and students from across the state to honor outstanding legislative leaders for their efforts.

Watch the event recording [here](#).