The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities Announces New Chair and Members to Its Executive Committee

October 9, 2024–During its Annual Business Meeting, held at the Kimpton Sawyer Hotel in Sacramento, California, the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) elected Pomona College President G. Gabrielle Starr as the new chair of the AICCU Executive Committee. President Starr's two-year term began that day, succeeding Mount Saint Mary's University Los Angeles President Ann McElaney-Johnson. Ravi Rajan, president of California Institute of the Arts, was elected first vice chair and University of Redlands President Krista Newkirk was elected second vice chair. National University President Mark Milliron was elected as a new member. Ruthann Heinrich, chair of National University's Board of Trustees, was elected to a non-president position.

The AICCU Executive Committee serves as the association's governing board and is responsible for overseeing the association's agenda on higher education policy, actively encouraging support for the association's priorities and initiatives, and overseeing the operations of AICCU. The Executive Committee is comprised of 22 presidents (or senior campus leaders) of member institutions and non-president positions.

"AICCU institutions play a vital role in enhancing California's educational, economic, creative, and intellectual landscape," said AICCU President Kristen Soares. "With the new leadership under our newly-elected chair, we are energized and ready to advance our mission of providing quality education that meets the diverse needs of the state. The AICCU team and I are eager to work with the Executive Committee to ensure that every student in California has the chance to achieve their higher education goals."

# # #

About AICCU

The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) is comprised of 85+ independent, nonprofit colleges and universities, which make up the Independent California Colleges and Universities (ICCU) sector. The ICCU sector plays a pivotal role in the development of the state's model higher education offerings and in making California a symbol of innovation across the globe. ICCU institutions award nearly 20% of all undergraduate degrees and over 50% of graduate degrees, making them the largest preparers of California's advanced workforce.

Media Contact: Sharlene Phou | (916) 767-1112 | sharlene.phou@aiccu.edu