Statement by AICCU President Kristen F. Soares regarding Dr. Mildred García's Appointment as Chancellor of the California State University System

July 13, 2023

I send my congratulations to Dr. Mildred García on her appointment as chancellor of the California State University (CSU) system. Chancellor García has been a strong leader and advocate for higher education on the state and federal levels. Higher education in the U.S. is currently at a critical inflection point and Chancellor García, the first Latina to hold the Chancellor position in the CSU system, brings an understanding of the needs of today's students to access, thrive, and succeed in college.

Chancellor García previously served as president of two minority-serving institutions: CSU Dominguez Hills and Cal State Fullerton. She helped lead the universities in increasing their graduation and retention rates and her inclusive leadership and support for student success makes her incredibly deserving of this new role. AICCU and CSU happen to be the two largest producers of teachers in California, and I look forward to strengthening this important workforce pipeline alongside Chancellor García.

Congratulations, Chancellor García. I and the leaders of California's private, independent colleges and universities look forward to engaging with you on higher education issues facing both the state and the nation.

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About AICCU

The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) is comprised of 80+ 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. Within California, ICCU institutions award nearly 20 percent of all undergraduate degrees and over 50 percent of graduate degrees, making them the largest preparers of California's advanced workforce.

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