Statement Regarding Governor Newsom's Proposed 2022-23 State Budget

Kristen Soares, President, Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities

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The educator workforce has been under pressure for many years, and the pandemic has only put further strain on our state's teachers, new and veteran teachers alike. Today the independent, nonprofit higher education sector in California credentials 45% of new teachers in the state and proudly enrolls over half of the teacher candidates. AICCU is gratified to see the $54.4 million investment Governor Gavin Newsom is committing to in proposed 2022-23 state budget to prepare, train, and recruit new teachers and administrators. This includes $10 million to support public and nonprofit colleges and universities to develop and implement integrated teacher education programs, a program that has worked extremely well when originally established under the Brown Administration. The waiving of certain examination and credential fees will also lower some barriers of entry to this critically important profession.

The independent higher education sector educates approximately 20% of all undergraduates and over half of the graduate/professional degree holders in the state. As such we play a key role in educating the future workforce that our state will need to thrive, both socially and economically. AICCU encourages the governor and Legislature to look at independent colleges and universities as part of the solution as they consider proposals like the Golden State Awards program and efforts to meet the 70% postsecondary degree attainment goal.

We look forward to working with Governor Newsom, the Department of Finance, and the Legislature on addressing issues of college access, equity, and success.

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About AICCU

The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) is comprised of 86 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 over 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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