Statement Regarding Legislature Passing Assembly Bill 183

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

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The passage of Assembly Bill 183, the higher education trailer bill, marks a significant investment in higher education access, affordability, and success. This bill will increase the maximum Cal Grant award from $9,220 to $9,358 for student recipients, while expanding the supplemental $6,000 award to benefit foster youth and students with dependent children at independent California colleges and universities (ICCUs). Additionally, the expansion includes changes to transfer entitlement portability that will further assist those students transferring to ICCUs, who we know provide tremendous regional college access.

"The Legislature's vote to advance AB 183 invests critical resources in students, and further exemplifies the value our state's leaders place in access to California's higher education institutions," stated Kristen Soares, president of AICCU. "We are grateful to policymakers for their commitment to making college more accessible and affordable for all Californians. I would particularly like to thank Senator Anthony Portantino for his tireless work to champion these much-needed investments in students attending ICCUs."

Additionally, we applaud the significant investments to further expand teacher preparation programs including initiatives to support teacher recruitment and retention. This includes an expansion of the Golden State Teacher Grant Program and a renewal of the Integrated Teacher Education Program grants. The independent higher education sector credentials nearly half of the new teachers in the state and as such we recognize our important role to address the teacher workforce needs in California.

AICCU thanks our legislative leaders and the governor for their commitment to equity in college access and leading the way for more opportunities for students to excel throughout California's higher education ecosystem. AB 183 is a win for students, our future leaders.

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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. 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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