Statement Regarding President Biden Signing the Appropriations Omnibus Bill

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

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AICCU is excited to see President Biden sign the appropriations omnibus. College just became more affordable for the 50,000 Pell Grant students that attend independent California colleges and universities with the significant investments in higher education in the spending package, including $24.6 billion for federal student aid programs like SEOG, TRIO, and GEAR UP, and for MSIs and HBCUs. We appreciate that Congress and President Biden recognize the need to address college affordability, equitable access, and student success. The $400 increase in the maximum Pell Grant award is the most significant investment in this important program in more than a decade, raising the award to $6,895. The Pell program celebrates its 50th anniversary this year and has been critical to providing affordable access and supporting student success throughout its time. The $400 increase is much needed and appreciated, and AICCU and our students remain committed to the promise of doubling the Pell Grant to provide even more affordable college access.

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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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