Statement Regarding Governor Newsom's May Revise Budget Proposal

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

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Today's budget proposal from Governor Newsom outlines an ambitious vision to continue meeting the needs of our state, communities, and families. The state's 80+ independent nonprofit colleges and universities serve a critical role in educating over 180,000 undergraduates and 148,000 graduate students. As a leading workforce contributor, AICCU institutions prepare in the fields of teacher preparation, nursing, and mental health professionals.

We thank the governor for the proposed $1.5 million investment to integrate our institutions into the ASSIST platform. This investment will help improve regional transfer for community college students and strengthens the partnership with our independent, nonprofit colleges and universities, and we look forward to working with our partners at the University of California on implementation. We also appreciate the recognition of our good-faith effort to expand Associate Degree for Transfer opportunities for students.

To further support students and families at a time of historic inflation, we must strengthen our investments in underrepresented students as they pursue a college degree. Specifically, AICCU supports the Senate's proposed $25.9 million investment that funds an increase to the Cal Grant award. For more than 27,000 recipients attending our institutions, this simplifies the Cal Grant program by expanding supplemental grant support for foster youth and student parents while extending portability of the award for students transferring from California Community Colleges.

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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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