Statement by AICCU President Kristen F. Soares regarding Dr. Sonya Christian's Appointment as Chancellor of the California Community College System

February 23, 2023

It brings me great joy to congratulate Dr. Sonya Christian on her appointment as chancellor of the California Community College system. Dr. Christian is a passionate, student-centered leader and educator who brings tremendous experience to lead the California Community College system at this crucial time when we are still recovering from the global pandemic.

I am pleased that Chancellor Christian is already very familiar with several Independent California College and Universities, having worked with them to improve equitable college access in the Central Valley. I am excited to work with Chancellor Christian to build even stronger pathways for more community college students to continue their education at an AICCU institution, which offers students regional access and student support systems to ensure they succeed in attaining a bachelor's degree. AICCU has a strong commitment to improve community college transfer to independent institutions, including finding new opportunities for the Associate Degree for Transfer program and expanding state and federal financial aid to ensure students are financially supported.

Congratulations, Chancellor Christian. I look forward to our continued partnership and working together to ensure students from all backgrounds achieve their goals and to advance a higher education agenda to meet the workforce needs of California.

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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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