AICCU President Kristen Soares' Statement on Deborah Cochrane's Appointment as Executive Director of the California Education Interagency Council

April 2, 2026

The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) congratulates Deborah "Debbie" Cochrane on her appointment as Executive Director of the California Education Interagency Council.

Debbie brings exceptional depth of experience in higher education policy, student access, and institutional oversight to this role. AICCU has had the privilege of working alongside Debbie for many years, including through her service as chief of the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education and as a member of the Office of Cradle-to-Career Governing Board. Her collaborative approach and strong commitment to student success have made her a trusted partner and we have great confidence in the leadership she will bring to this new role.

AICCU looks forward to continuing that partnership with the California Education Interagency Council to advance the state's education and workforce goals. Our colleges and universities stand ready to contribute our expertise and perspective to this important work.

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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% of all undergraduate degrees and over 50% of graduate degrees, making them the largest preparers of California's advanced workforce.

Media Contact: Sharlene Phou | (916) 767-1112 | sharlene.phou@aiccu.edu