AICCU President Kristen Soares' Statement on the California Education Interagency Council Bills Signed by Gov. Newsom

October 9, 2025

The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) applauds Gov. Gavin Newsom for signing two key bills that strengthen the alignment between California's education and workforce strategies through the creation of the California Education Interagency Council.

AB 1098 (Fong) ensures that California's independent, nonprofit colleges and universities have a seat at the table, recognizing our sector's essential role in educating and training the state's workforce. SB 638 (Padilla) expands workforce preparation opportunities through the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant program, advancing equitable access to high-quality career pathways.

AICCU was proud to support these efforts alongside our partners including California EDGE Coalition, California Competes, and Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. We also extend our appreciation to Sen. Padilla, who played an instrumental role in the inclusion of the independent sector on the Council. Together we share a commitment to preparing students for the jobs of tomorrow and ensuring that California's higher education ecosystem meets the state's economic and equity goals. We look forward to contributing to the Council's work and to shaping a stronger, more connected future for California's students, institutions, and workforce.

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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.

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