Statement Regarding Dr Kimberly White-Smith’s Appointment to the CTC

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

August 26, 2021

On behalf of AICCU, I am pleased to announce Dr. Kimberly White-Smith, dean of the LaFetra College of Education at the University of La Verne, is appointed to be the independent, higher education sector’s representative to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). As AICCU’s CTC representative, she will also serve, in an ex officio position, on the Education Deans and Directors Council Executive Committee.

AICCU and the EDC represent 43 schools and programs of education at independent, nonprofit colleges and universities. In 2019-20, the independent colleges and universities sector credentialed for the first time a majority of California’s teachers. With the demand for new teachers, AICCU institutions are central to preparing the diverse workforce that California’s K-12 school districts require.

Dr. White-Smith brings more than 25 years of experience in urban education and teacher development, with a passion for academic justice for minoritized students through enhanced educational environments, organizational structures, policies, and teaching practices. We know that she will bring this leadership and focus to the CTC, which is particularly relevant as the state continues to face a teacher shortage, in search of teachers with diverse backgrounds. We are grateful she has agreed to take on this responsibility.

In doing so, Dr. White-Smith replaces Dr. Andrew Wall, formerly with the University of Redlands, as AICCU’s representative she will finish out his term. We thank Dr. Wall for his tremendous work with the commission, his colleagues, and AICCU and wish him well in his future endeavors.

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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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