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Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities Helps Campuses Get Back to School Safely With Restart Higher Education Planning Task Force

May 4, 2020—As campuses prepare for a safe return of students, faculty and staff members, the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities is launching a task force to provide valuable guidance to member institutions throughout the state.

“A coordinated response and guidance, with participation from all relevant stakeholders, will help our state’s independent colleges and universities prepare for a safely responsible restart,” said Gabrielle Starr, president of Pomona College and chair of the Restart Higher Education Planning Task Force. “Such a plan will be critical to meet the unique challenges facing California higher education.”

The task force is [comprised](#) of 15 college and university leaders reflective of the diverse membership of AICCU, and has additional advisory members. This group of experienced leaders will uncover and help address the many logistical and regulatory barriers associated with implementing a safe campus reopening for employees, students and the larger community.

The data-based guidance developed will be a tool for institutions to use and apply to their regions, providing the best, scalable approaches to ensure institutions are utilizing shared resources. The task force’s work will include the guiding principles released by the federal government, any guidance released by California Gov. Gavin Newsom’s Administration and regional leaders.

“Successful development and implementation of these strategies will require close collaboration among university leadership, state and local leaders and health officials,” said Kristen Soares, President of AICCU. “California’s independent colleges and universities are collaborators and committed to finding the right approaches to get students back safely into irreplaceable, physical learning experiences.”

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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.