Statement Regarding AICCU Member Institutions’ Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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

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The coronavirus (COVID-19) has significantly impacted each of the 85 independent, nonprofit colleges and universities that make up the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (AICCU). Even as each institution grapples with the many impacts of the coronavirus now, they continue to serve students and are looking towards adapting for an uncertain future—both for their campus community and students.

One thing that unites each of our member institutions is our shared commitment to ensuring the health and safety of their respective student bodies, staff members, and faculties. This remains the primary focus for everyone. Collectively, we all are doing everything we can to ensure students are held harmless during this time. This includes students who will be seeking admission to our colleges and universities.

For example, each of our member institutions are in contact with local and state health officials to work together on managing the coronavirus situation and are following all recommendations from local, state, and federal officials. Additionally, AICCU colleges and universities are actively implementing protocols for distance education for faculty and students, and telecommuting for staff and administrators.

As we continue to monitor this situation, each AICCU institution will update their plans and procedures to minimize further disruptions to its students, faculty, and staff members. AICCU will continue to work around the clock to understand and address the financial and other impacts on our sector. We know the road ahead will continue to be challenging for our community and all of higher education. We are all in this together, and I am confident in the current leadership at each of our institutions. Together, we will get through these unprecedented times.

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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 of 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.

Contact: Aram Nadjarian – (323) 533-4523