



Statement Regarding Governor Newsom's Proposed 2020-21 Budget Release

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

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On behalf of the 360,000 students attending the independent, nonprofit colleges and universities, the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) commends Governor Gavin Newsom on his proposed budget for the fiscal year 2020-21, as released this morning. The proposed budget reflects his continued commitment to California higher education, including maintaining the maximum Cal Grant award for students attending independent, nonprofit institutions. AICCU continues to support efforts to strengthen the Associate Degree for Transfer pathway to the independent, nonprofit sector, as part of our deep commitment to serving California community college students.

California's diverse students are increasingly in need of affordable, regional options for higher education. AICCU institutions can provide that for students with financial aid options, such as the Cal Grant, and our many regional locations. By protecting the maximum Cal Grant award for students, who often overcome significant odds to achieve their higher education goals, the governor's budget ensures students an opportunity to plan for college and persist once they enroll.

As a partner in the Fresno Integrated K-16 Education Collaborative, we are pleased to see the increase of \$17 million to support the transformative work of this Collaborative to increase educational attainment as well as social and economic mobility.

Additionally, the independent sector annually produces 43% of new teacher credentials. We applaud the governor's investment in educator recruitment and training in high need fields for California.

We look forward to working with the governor and Legislature to ensure all California students have access to affordable higher education that best fits their individual needs. The independent sector plays a critical role in serving students and fulfilling the needs of the state's 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 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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