



## **Statement Regarding California’s Guidance on Reopening Higher Education**

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The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) welcomes the California Department of Public Health and CAL OSHA’s guidance for higher education and college athletics. This guidance is critical for institutions to determine how and in what form they will continue to educate students safely and safeguard their communities. Educating the next generation of students that is reflective of California’s dynamic diversity is our mission and purpose.

Our colleges and universities led the way in quickly protecting students, faculty, and staff. They have developed multiple plans, enabling them to adapt to different scenarios and local conditions. Many have already pivoted to online or hybrid instruction, while continuing to plan for educating at-risk students, international students, students enrolled in health professional programs, and other populations who need to be on campus physically. We will continue to maintain that core commitment as we move forward with an academic year under the most unique circumstances our institutions have ever faced.

This spring, the AICCU convened its Restart Higher Education Task Force to create its Recommendations for a Fall Return to Independent Higher Education in California. This report was the product of a detailed review of federal and state guidelines at the time of creation, as well as extensive discussions among the task force’s 15 college and university leaders along with representatives from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, McKinsey & Company, and Oliver Wyman, with input from the Governor’s Office. We shared these plans with local public health departments and the Governor’s Office, recognizing that state and local guidance would also be needed in reopening our campuses. We will now carefully review the state guidance and look forward to continuing to work in partnership with our stakeholder community to formulate and implement plans.

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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.