Statement Regarding New California State University Chancellor

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

September 23, 2020

The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) enthusiastically supports the appointment of Joseph I. Castro as the next chancellor of the California State University system.

Chancellor Castro has a proven track record as an innovative and inclusive educator who has led a remarkable transformation during his seven years as president of California State University, Fresno. Drawing from his life experience as a First Generation student from a single-parent home, Chancellor Castro has created a pipeline of opportunity for all Californians, helping Fresno State gain recognition from publications including U.S. News and World Report, which named it one of the nation’s leading public universities for graduation-rate performance. He has worked collaboratively with his counterparts at local community colleges, the University of California Merced, and Fresno Pacific University to develop strong regional partnerships that benefit students, families, and the communities they serve. Before taking over at Fresno State, Chancellor Castro served for 23 years in the University of California system, giving him a broad base of institutional knowledge about higher education complexities in our state.

We also want to pay tribute to outgoing Chancellor Timothy White, who served with distinction since 2012, overseeing substantial rises in student enrollment and state funding. Chancellor White originally intended to retire in July 2020, but delayed those plans due to the COVID-19 pandemic. His steady hand ably guided the university system through one of the most challenging periods in its history.

The AICCU Executive Committee and I look forward to continuing our strong partnership with Chancellor Castro as we work to ensure California’s institutions of higher education remain world leaders.

###

About AICCU

The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) is comprised of over 80 independent, nonprofit colleges and universities, which make up the Independent California Colleges and Universities (ICCU) sector. The ICCU sector plays a pivotal role in developing the state’s model of higher education offerings and 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.