March 1, 2022

Mary Vixie Sandy, Ed.D.
Executive Director
California Commission on Teacher Credentialing
1900 Capital Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95811

Subject: Separate Reporting of Independent Colleges and Universities Data in CTC Documents

Dear Executive Director Sandy:

On behalf of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) and the AICCU Education Deans and Directors Council, we write to respectfully request that the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) separate independent nonprofit colleges and universities from for-profit colleges in how the commission reports data. Currently, both nonprofit and for-profit colleges are categorized jointly as “private/independent colleges and universities” in reports, such as the Teacher Supply in California 2019-20.

In state law, independent, nonprofit colleges and universities and for-profit (or proprietary) colleges are defined differently. Independent colleges and universities are defined in Education Code Section 66010 (b) as “nonpublic higher education institutions that grant undergraduate degrees, graduate degrees, or both, and that are formed as nonprofit corporations in this state and are accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.”

Separating independent colleges and universities will provide the CTC and the broader public greater, deeper, and more nuanced insight into statewide teacher preparation data that the commission currently collects. This is particularly important as the Office of Cradle-to-Career begins to build out its longitudinal data system infrastructure. Having the programs at independent institutions differentiated will reveal much more about institutions are performing; what the barriers are at which institutions and how to address them; and how to address the teacher shortage the state is facing.

There are significant differences between nonprofit colleges and universities and those in the proprietary sector—mission and service to students, financial structure, performance metrics, and more. For these reasons, AICCU and the Education Deans and Directors Council respectfully requests that the CTC report out these two sectors of higher education separately in its data and reports.
Sincerely,

Kristen F. Soares  
AICCU President

Michelle Young, Ph.D.  
Dean, Loyola Marymount University School of Education  
Chair, AICCU Education Deans and Directors Council

CC: Dr. Kimberly White-Smith, AICCU Representative to the CTC