Subject: California May Revision Budget Proposal – Invest in Teacher Workforce Programs

On behalf of the AICCU Education Deans and Directors Council (EDC), the executive committee of the EDC urge you to support the investments in teacher workforce programs, as proposed in Governor Gavin Newsom’s May Revision. As you know, the state has been facing a severe teacher shortage for many years, and the pandemic as only put further stress on current teachers and disincentivized prospective ones from joining the profession.

The EDC is the organizational voice for the 43 schools and programs of education within the membership of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities. Together, the independent higher education sector credentials 43 percent of new teachers in the state and enrolls 45 percent of teacher preparation students. The independent higher education sector plays an integral role in preparing the future teacher workforce in our state.

Specifically, the EDC urges the inclusion of the following proposals from the May Revision:

- Changes to the statute for the Golden State Teacher Grant Program (GSTGP) to expand eligibility to school counselor, social worker, and psychologist candidates to consider earning a credential and serve at a priority school in California for four years, within five years after completing a preparation program.

- $500 million to expand residency slots for teachers and school counselors.

- An additional $15 million to continue the work of the Educator Workforce Investment Grant program, available to higher education institutions and nonprofit organizations to continue the work in computer science and an additional $15 million to expand the work of EWIG in the areas of special education and support for English Learners.
• An increase of $20 million to support a K-12 Teacher Residency Program Technical Assistance Center.

• $85 million to create pre-K through 12 grade educator resources and professional learning to implement the Next Generation Science Standards, the California Math Framework, the California Computer Science Standards, and the math and science domains of the California Preschool Learning Foundations.

In addition to the above proposals called for in the May Revision, the EDC continues to support augmentations to the Cal Grant program that better support low-income students. Specifically, the EDC supports the Senate’s proposed $25.9 million to increase the maximum award amount and expand recent investments made by the state to support foster youth and student parents. Strong and stable financial aid is a critical tool that supports our future teachers and helps diversify the teacher workforce. Additionally, the EDC supports the establishment of a new integrated teacher education program (ITEP) grant, as proposed in the January budget. This proposal provides $10 million in grants to schools and programs of education to develop integrated teacher education programs. In a previous iteration, ICCU teacher ed programs successfully used the grants to build and strengthen four-year integrated programs.

Lastly, to meaningfully address the shortages our K-12 schools are facing, multiple pathways into the profession are necessary. To complement the investments in residency programs, the EDC would support a state investment to support intern teachers. School districts and organizations could immediately place interns in classrooms. A state investment would allow local educational agencies and higher education institutions the ability to support an intern by offsetting preparation costs, in addition to supporting a robust clinical support system to foster success of interns in our K-12 school classrooms.

Thank you for your continued work on behalf of California. If you have questions about these programs, please contact AICCU Vice President for Policy Tom Vu (thomas.vu@aiccu.edu).

Sincerely,

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