Statement by AICCU President Kristen F. Soares regarding Gov. Newsom’s May Revise

May 14, 2024

With the State of California facing a $27.6 billion state budget shortfall and students experiencing ongoing issues with the “Better FAFSA” rollout, we commend the Newsom Administration for maintaining the Cal Grant maximum award for students attending independent California colleges and universities (ICCU) at $9,358. The Cal Grant plays a critical role in promoting college access and opportunity to thousands of California students seeking to further their education, including over 25,000 recipients enrolled at our institutions.

As the administration and Legislature work to finalize the budget, we hope that their actions moving forward will create a stable budget plan that allows for continued investments in college access, affordability, and success in the future. We remain supportive of increased investments into the Cal Grant program that will help even more students succeed in their journey to a college degree.

Specifically, we remain steadfast in our support for 1) an increase in the award amount for students attending a private, nonprofit college or university; 2) removing the financial barrier for nontraditional California Community College transfer students to use their remaining expanded Cal Grant eligibility at an ICCU; and 3) funding to implement the Cal Grant Equity Framework, which will simplify the program and expand access to at least 4,000 additional students attending our colleges and universities.

We look forward to working with our community college partners and the state to strengthen transfer pathways to our institutions. Together, we can achieve the governor’s goal to raise college attainment.

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About AICCU
The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) is comprised of 89 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 nearly 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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