Statement Regarding Governor Newsome Signing Assembly Bill 128

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

June 29, 2021

It’s official. After 20 years of disinvestment, new Cal Grant students that attend California independent colleges and universities will see an increase to their award in the recently signed 2021-22 state budget agreement. While this is a modest increase, raising the maximum award from $9,084 to $9,220, it is a critical one as we continue our work to ensure low-income students in the independent sector are supported by a strengthened state-institutional partnership that increases college opportunities, affordability, and success. These students reflect the diversity of California and face the same challenges as their fellow students in the public higher education segments—they deserve the same support. This is an important first step toward that.

On behalf of the AICCU member institutions and the more than 28,000 Cal Grant students that enroll in our sector each year, I thank Governor Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders for their commitment to and support of our students. AICCU looks to working with the governor and the Legislature to bring greater equity to California’s financial aid system next year.

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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 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.

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