Statement Regarding Pell Grant Preservation and Expansion Act 2021

Kristen Soares, President, Association of Independent California Colleges & Universities
June 17, 2021

The determination of Senators Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Patty Murray (D-WA) and Representatives Mark Pocan (D-WI) and Bobby Scott (D-VA) for introducing the Pell Grant Preservation and Expansion Act represents the indispensable efforts required to secure a brighter future of our students and families. By doubling the Pell Grant maximum from $6,495 to $13,000, we solidify a stronger investment in our students and our workforce as the economy recovers from the impact of COVID-19 and beyond.

The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) focuses on ensuring students from low- and moderate-income families have access to an affordable, high-quality college education. In conjunction with robust institutional aid and state aid, AICCU institutions enroll nearly 58,000 Pell Grant students each year. The additional Pell Grant support will further help students with economic hardship to remain focused on an upward trajectory to and through college.

Our students and families are relying on our policymakers to strengthen the grant, which has lost two-thirds of its purchasing power over the years. Ideally, Congress will double the Pell Grant as we approach the 50th anniversary in June 2022.

We look forward to working with members of the House and Senate and the Biden Administration to ensure fundamental progress is made through legislation.

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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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