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February 14, 2016

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
Chair, Assembly Sub Committee 2 on Education Finance
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2136
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: *Reject Proposed Cal Grant Cut for Low-Income
Students at Private, Nonprofit Colleges and Universities
California Student Aid Commission Budget*

Dear Assemblymember McCarty:

The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) respectfully requests the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance to support California low income students attending private, nonprofit colleges and universities by *rejecting the proposed 11.3% cut to their Cal Grant maximum award.*

The impact of this proposed cut will have long-term implications for the state and its promise to all students in the Master Plan for Higher Education, and jeopardizes California's future workforce and economic development. As such, we believe that this issue is very worthy of a *public discussion during the budget deliberations* and urge you to dedicate time to this important issue as you schedule your hearings.

The Cal Grant award was created to give low-income students a choice and to fully utilize the capacity of the private, nonprofit sector. It is time for the state of California to keep the promise to low-income students and fund their Cal Grant for any higher education institution in the state.

As you review our request, please consider the following:

- Cal Grant A families, who choose an AICCU institution, have an average family income of \$40,000, while Cal Grant B families have an average family income of \$20,000;
- Our Cal Grant students reflect the diversity of California—42% Latino, 25% Caucasian, 16% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 7% African American;
- Over 45% of AICCU Cal Grant students are first-generation college students;
- The proposal would cut our future students' Cal Grant award by over \$1,000, even though their public-sector peers are not targeted for reduced support;

- The state spends less to support students attending an AICCU institution than the University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU);
- The \$8.4 million necessary to rescind this cut, 0.007% of general fund expenditures, will keep the state's promise in place for all students.

For the above reasons, we respectfully urge you to repeal the 11.3% reduction to the Cal Grant maximum award for students who will be attending the private, nonprofit sector beginning with the 2017-18 school year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kristen F. Soares

cc: Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Assembly Member Chad Mayes, Assembly Republican Leader
Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance
Devorah Lieberman, Chair, AICCU Executive Committee and President, University of La Verne
AICCU Executive Committee