****

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **C:\Users\jill\AppData\Local\Temp\Temp1_AICCU Logo 2016.zip\AICCU Logo 2016\logo RGB.jpg** | **C:\Users\jill\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\5H18XKCE\CSUWordmark.jpg** |  |

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 28, 2017

**CONTACT**

Jenny Kern

(415) 244-7676

[jenny@spitfirestrategies.com](mailto:jenny@spitfirestrategies.com)

**Ten Thousand Teachers Participate in Third Annual California Teachers Summit, Featuring Dr. Jill Biden**

*Unique day of learning brought together a growing network of educators across the state to share strategies and lessons learned in the classroom*

**Moraga, CA (July 28, 2017) –** Tenthousand teachers participated on Friday in the third annual *Better Together: California Teachers Summit*, a free day of learning led by teachers for teachers. Saint Mary’s College of California served as the headquarters for this year’s Summit, which took place at 35 sites across the Golden State.

“Saint Mary’s is honored to host such a powerful day of learning,” said Christopher Sindt, dean of Saint Mary’s Kalmanovitz School of Education. “The Summit underscores our commitment to academic excellence and empowering teachers to foster change for the common good.”

Dr. Jill Biden, a lifelong educator and the wife of former Vice President Joe Biden, delivered the keynote address at Saint Mary’s, which was livestreamed to all 35 sites. Dr. Biden, who has taught at community colleges, a public high school and a psychiatric hospital for adolescents, shared valuable insights from her 30-year teaching career.

“Every day in the Administration, I leaned on my experiences as a teacher,” said Dr. Biden. “Being an educator is about bridging divides, coming up with creative solutions, and finding a way forward, even when it’s tough. When I think about the challenges we face as a nation and as a global community, teachers are the people who give me the most hope.”   
  
This year’s theme, “Now More Than Ever,” reflects the importance of bringing teachers together to share ways to empower California students, protect their values as educators and set an example for the nation. The California Teachers Summit is the result of a unique partnership between the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU), the California State University (CSU) and New Teacher Center.

“The California Teachers Summit is all about teachers. They are the experts on what works in the classroom,” said Kristen Soares, President of AICCU. “Now more than ever, we are committed to enhancing the teaching profession by giving teachers the opportunity to learn cutting-edge strategies that make a difference in the classroom.”

Following Dr. Biden’s address, each site featured TED-style EdTalks by local teachers and Edcamp discussions on teacher selected topics. From addressing bullying in the classroom to celebrating diversity to teaching students to be open-minded, critical thinkers, teachers explored timely topics that are impacting student success.

“By investing in teachers, we are investing in our current and our future students,” said Loren Blanchard, executive vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs at CSU. “Participants gain strategies, tools and resources for helping every student meet their full potential.”

The Summit format is designed to facilitate a spirit of peer learning and collaboration. Teachers walked away with access to new resources and concrete tools that are already transforming classrooms across the state.

“Bringing teachers together empowers them to take their teaching to the next level,” said Ellen Moir, Founder and CEO of New Teacher Center. “By learning from, supporting, and elevating each other, there’s no limit to what California teachers can do.”

Plans are already underway for the fourth annual Summit, which will take place on July 27, 2018. During the event, the organizers announced next year’s theme, “It’s Personal: Meeting the Needs of All Students,” which reflects the importance of personalized learning.

*For more information, please visit* [*www.cateacherssummit.com*](http://www.cateacherssummit.com)and follow @CATeacherSummit on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bettertogetherca/) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/CATeacherSummit).

*###*

**About AICCU**

The [Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities](https://www.aiccu.edu/) represents 75 private nonprofit colleges and universities in California who collectively enroll 320,000 students and is the largest preparer of California’s advanced workforce. The core mission of AICCU institutions is to improve lives through higher education. AICCU institutions are committed to the public good and are incredibly diverse – ranging from large to small traditional liberal arts institutions, including nationally ranked research universities; colleges offering faith-based, performing and visual arts, and “non-traditional” programs of study; as well as professional schools that specialize in business, law, medicine, and more. In addition to providing creative and intellectual higher education resources to assure California’s future societal and economic vitality, AICCU institutions are major contributors to the economies of the regions they serve.

**About CSU**

The [California State University](https://www2.calstate.edu/) is the largest system of senior higher education in the country, with 23 campuses, 50,800 faculty and staff and 479,000 students. Half of the CSU's students transfer from California Community Colleges. Created in 1960, the mission of the CSU is to provide high-quality, affordable education to meet the ever changing needs of California. With its commitment to quality, opportunity, and student success, the CSU is renowned for superb teaching, innovative research and for producing job-ready graduates. Each year, the CSU awards more than 110,000 degrees. One in every 20 Americans holding a college degree is a graduate of the CSU and our alumni are 3.4 million strong. Connect with and learn more about the CSU in the [CSU NewsCenter](https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/news).

**About NTC**   
[New Teacher Center](https://newteachercenter.org/) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving student learning by guiding a new generation of educators. Founded by teachers in 1998, NTC works in conjunction with school districts, state policy makers, and educators across the country to increase the effectiveness of teachers and school leaders at all levels. These programs are built upon research-based principles for teacher onboarding, mentoring, and ongoing coaching, and proven to accelerate teacher effectiveness, reduce teacher churn, and improve student achievement. NTC has made it their mission to overcome challenges students and teachers face by providing all educators with the support and resources necessary to succeed from their first day to their last. NTC now supports over 8,500 mentors or coaches and 31,600 teachers, and is improving the learning of over 2.2 million students across the country.