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**Barbara K. Mistick, D.B.A.**

*President*

Barbara Mistick has served as president of NAICU since September 2019. She is a visionary leader who is passionate about the independent sector of higher education and committed to increasing access for all students. Mistick and the NAICU team work closely with Congress, the executive branch, and the independent sector of higher education to develop policies that best serve our nation’s learners.

Coming out of the pandemic, she helped organize the higher education community and spearheaded efforts to double the Pell Grant maximum award to $13,000. The initiative secured a down payment increase of $400 in the FY2022 federal budget and $500 in the FY2023 federal budget, the largest increases in the Pell Grant maximum award since 2009. NAICU advocacy efforts also helped secure increases in each of the core student and institutional aid programs in the 2023 omnibus spending package.

Mistick expanded NAICU’s mission to secure institutional aid, along with student aid, to ensure private, nonprofit colleges and universities were equitably treated when Congress distributed $77 billion in Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds. She enhanced NAICU’s communication strategies and virtual tools to keep members informed of federal efforts and opportunities for assistance. These tactics were critical to ensuring the health and safety of our nation’s campuses and the students and communities they serve.

Mistick also led the development and publication of NAICU’s first-ever national economic and community impact study, *Private, Nonprofit Higher Education: Shaping Lives and Anchoring Communities*. The study, which was updated in 2024, found that the private, nonprofit sector of higher education generates $652 billion in economic impact, $98.9 billion in local, state, and federal tax revenue, supports 3.4 million jobs while directly employing 1.2 million people, and produces 1.2 million graduates annually.

During the course of her 30-year career in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, Mistick has been an entrepreneur, educator and leader at institutions such as [Wilson College](https://www.wilson.edu/) (PA), where she was granted the honorary title of president emerita, the [Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh](https://www.carnegielibrary.org/), the [H.J. Heinz School of Public Policy and Management](https://www.heinz.cmu.edu/about/public-policy-management) at Carnegie Mellon University (PA), the National Education Center for Women in Business at Seton Hill University (PA), and at various businesses she managed and/or founded.

Mistick’s book, *Stretch: How to Future-Proof Yourself for Tomorrow’s Workplace*, was designated as an Amazon Editor’s Pick and ranked #12 on the 800-CEO-READ’s Best Seller list. She is a graduate of Carlow University (PA) and the University of Pittsburgh (PA), and earned a doctor of

business administration from Case Western Reserve University (OH).

**About the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities**

The National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) serves as the unified voice for the 1,700 private, nonprofit colleges and universities in our nation. Founded in 1976, NAICU is the only national membership organization solely focused on representing private, nonprofit higher education on public policy issues in Washington, DC. NAICU’s membership reflects the diversity of private, nonprofit higher education in the U.S. Our member institutions include major research universities, faith-based colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions and other Minority-Serving Institutions, art and design colleges, conservatories of music, traditional liberal arts and science institutions, women’s colleges, work colleges, two-year colleges and schools of law, medicine, engineering, business and other professions.

Each year, private, nonprofit colleges and universities graduate more than 1.2 million students. Additionally, the economic impact of the private, nonprofit sector of higher education for academic year 2022-23 totaled $652 billion, and the sector generated $99 billion in tax revenues and supported and sustained 3.4 million jobs.