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**Contact for media inquiries:**

Lois Hollis

Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas Inc.

(512) 472-9522 ext. 100

[lois.hollis@icut.org](mailto:lois.hollis@icut.org)

[www.icut.org](http://www.icut.org)



Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas, Inc.  
Stretching Minds. Stretching Money.

### **Texas Private University Association Announces New Leadership**

AUSTIN – (June 10, 2014) – The Board of Directors of Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas, Inc. (ICUT) today announced its long-time president, Carol L. McDonald, will retire on September 30, 2014. She has led the organization for 32 years and previously served in the office of Lieutenant Governor William P. Hobby, Jr.

After conducting a national search, the ICUT Board has appointed its new president, Ray Martinez, who currently serves as chancellor of Western Governors University Texas, a nonprofit, online university. Martinez joins ICUT after serving in a variety of senior higher education positions, including director of the Texas Senate Higher Education Committee, director of Government Relations at Rice University, and Associate Vice President for Governmental Relations at Texas A&M International University. Martinez also has extensive federal experience, having previously served on the White House staff of President Bill Clinton and as a Commissioner at the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, a position to which he was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate. Martinez, a native of Alice, Texas, received his undergraduate degree from Southwestern University and a law degree from the University of Houston Law Center. While a student at Southwestern University, Martinez was a recipient of the Texas Tuition Equalization Grant Program (TEG), a state financial aid program for Texas residents who demonstrate financial need and attend a private or independent college in Texas.

“It is a privilege for me to become the next president of ICUT and to follow on the distinguished service of my friend and mentor, Carol McDonald,” said Martinez. “As the first in my family to graduate from college, I know first-hand the tremendous value of a college degree. The independent colleges and universities in Texas play a vital role in ensuring access to high quality higher education for thousands of Texans.”

“We are fortunate to have someone with broad state and federal experience to take the helm as the next ICUT president,” said Dr. Robert Ivany, president of the University of St. Thomas and current chairman of the ICUT Board of Directors. “Ray’s knowledge and experience in Texas higher education policy will serve ICUT institutions well, as we seek to further develop collaborations with legislative leaders, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and other higher education stakeholders.”

ICUT is the association of private, non-profit, tax-exempt institutions of higher education in Texas accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Many of the ICUT members are church or faith-related institutions. ICUT’s primary purpose is to articulate the importance of independent higher education institutions in Texas and to advocate for public policy benefiting the students who attend these institutions. In the past academic year, ICUT institutions enrolled approximately 123,300 students or 17 percent of all students enrolled in four-year colleges and universities in Texas.

ICUT’s highest policy priority is funding for state and federal student financial aid programs, particularly for students who demonstrate financial need. To serve those students, ICUT worked with the Texas Legislature as it created the TEG program, which has been continuously funded since 1971. ICUT has accomplished other important policy goals in the areas of charitable immunity, inter-institutional collaboration, hazing and campus safety, and in the funding of research, facilities and technology infrastructure.

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