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NEWS RELEASE
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PRESIDENT OF SALVE REGINA - THE NEWPORT COLLEGE ATTENDS NAICU
ANNUAL MEETING; FEDERAL AID REDUCTIONS, TAX LAWS DISCUSSED

Federal shifts in public policy under the Reagan Administration and how they are affecting higher education were the subjects of remarks by conference leaders at the 1982 Annual Meeting of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) held recently in Washington, D.C.

Conference participants representing more than 500 independent colleges and universities, including Sister Lucille McKillop, president of Salve Regina - The Newport College, discussed critical issues facing their students and institutions. Policy positions were reached on controversial issues including reductions in funding of federal student aid programs, changes in tax laws affecting charitable giving, and government vs. self-regulation.

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Steven Muller, president of Johns Hopkins University and founding chairman of NAICU, opened the conference with an address on the association's early history and the challenges facing it in the 1980's. Muller asked his academic colleagues from across the country to reject the prospect that this "country should return to a bygone era when higher education was open only to an economic elite, and closed to so many not because they were unable to qualify or lacked talent, but simply because they lacked financial means to invest in their personal development."

According to John Phillips, president of NAICU, registration for the annual meeting was higher than usual, indicating the increasing concern among higher education leaders about cutbacks in education funding. "We must make our opinions and concerns heard by the people who fashion federal laws and regulations. In behalf of education, we need more communication from the grassroots to the marble dome. If the Administration is content to forge ahead in reshaping our lives without asking us what we'd like, we've got to take the initiative," Phillips urged.

NAICU is the Washington-based national voice for non-profit colleges and universities. Eight hundred independent colleges and universities, 42 state associations, and 26 national, regional and special purpose associations are members of NAICU. This was the sixth annual meeting.