

Contact:  
Andy Poarch  
[andy@alliancegroup ltd.com](mailto:andy@alliancegroup ltd.com)  
804-564-2566 (cell)

**For immediate release**

## **Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia President Retiring after 40 years of Leadership**

*Longtime head of CICV recounts milestones in student grant funding, health care and relationships from years at helm*

**RICHMOND, VA (Date)** - The Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia, Inc. (CICV), a nonprofit organization representing 27 accredited nonprofit independent colleges and universities in Virginia, announces the retirement of its president, Robert B. Lambeth, Jr. Lambeth, whose retirement comes after nearly 40 years of leadership, is the longest serving president of a state private college association in the US.

Since 1983, Lambeth served as president of CICV, and in that time, he worked with over one hundred presidents of Virginia's independent colleges and universities to encourage collaboration and unity among the schools. He led the organization in a variety of areas including government relations, joint institutional projects, business activities and collective marketing of member schools.

"I am very appreciative for the opportunity Virginia's private colleges have given me to serve as the CICV president for almost 40 years," said Lambeth. "It has been a rewarding, interesting, and challenging job. It has been my pleasure to work for numerous private college presidents and senior college administrators, many of whom have become close friends. I have also enjoyed having a close working relationship with many legislators and government officials."

Among his many achievements are the development and expansion of the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) Program for Virginia students. It has served over 300,000 students attending Virginia independent colleges and universities. The TAG Program will provide a \$4,500 grant to over 20,000 Virginia students attending nonprofit private colleges in the 2022-23 school year with a total appropriation of 90.8 million dollars. His work and support were critical for the advancement and success of this grant and the aid it provides to students attending independent higher education institutions.

"Robert has been a tireless champion for Virginia's independent colleges for decades," said Dr. David Johns, President, Ferrum College, and Chair, CICV Board of Directors. "In his role, Robert has collaborated with lawmakers on all sides of the aisle to secure funding necessary to make students' dreams come true. Likewise, through this work, Robert has been a champion and advocate for all who lead these colleges and universities. We are stronger and wiser thanks to Robert's guidance and friendship, and we wish the very best in his retirement."

During Lambeth's presidency, CICV developed an innovative self-insured health insurance program for the employees of CICV institutions. The Virginia Private Colleges Benefits Consortium (VPCBC), which has provided high quality and affordable healthcare insurance for over a decade, currently covers 3300

employees and 6100 total lives. In recent years, VPCBC has become the model for similar programs established by Virginia businesses and private college associations throughout the country.

In collaboration with CICV college officials, Lambeth led the creation of the first nonprofit higher education multiple employer retirement plan (MEP) in the United States. The CICV MEP provides retirement benefits to 16 CICV institutions and has over one billion dollars in combined assets. The CICV MEP has become the model for similar programs offered by other private college state associations.

“Robert is the most effective and talented executive I’ve ever worked with,” said Phillip Stone, former President of Sweet Briar College and Bridgewater College (both CICV member schools). “In Virginia, he’s the person most responsible for TAG grants. Robert came up with innovative ways to help colleges share operations to save money. Robert did it with great dignity and effectiveness.”

In 2017, Lambeth was a key proponent for a solar energy program that promoted solar energy at Virginia private colleges. This program was funded by the highly selective US Department of Energy Sunshot Solar Grant Program.

“Robert’s superb leadership of CICV for nearly 40 years has had a truly profound impact on the direction and value of private higher education in Virginia and well beyond,” said Robert Lindgren, President, Randolph-Macon College (a CICV member school). “Robert is highly respected nationally, and his extraordinary creativity and perseverance have enhanced the lives of literally hundreds of thousands of students and their families in Virginia – all the while earning him the respect and admiration of those with whom he has interacted, from prospective freshmen and parents, presidents and faculty, to governors and legislators alike.”

At the request of the CICV Board of Directors, Lambeth will continue his work until a successor is selected. After retirement, Lambeth plans to support the work of Virginia nonprofit organizations and pursue consulting opportunities.

##

#### About the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia (CICV)

*The Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia (CICV) was founded in 1971 and is a nonprofit organization representing 27 accredited nonprofit independent colleges and universities in Virginia. CICV advocates for its member institutions and their students, encourages collaboration among member colleges, conducts research on the role of independent higher education and promotes the contributions of Virginia’s independent colleges to the public. To learn more, please visit <http://cicv.org/>.*