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Richard Kazis Named TICAS Interim President

Lauren Asher Departing After Eight Years at Helm; Isaacson, Miller Retained to Lead National Search

OAKLAND, CA – The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) announced today that its board of directors has named Richard Kazis interim president, effective June 28, as the organization conducts a national executive search. Kazis, who chairs the TICAS board, is a national consultant on higher education and workforce issues and former senior vice president of Jobs for the Future. TICAS is a nonprofit research and policy organization dedicated to increasing college access, affordability, and success through improvements to student financial aid policies, both nationally and in California.

Kazis will succeed Lauren Asher, who announced plans to leave TICAS earlier this year. Asher co-founded TICAS' Project on Student Debt in 2005 and has led the organization since 2009. "Under Lauren's stellar leadership, TICAS has had an outsized impact on public policies and conversations about student debt, affordability, student aid simplification, and college accountability," Kazis said. "The organization is highly visible and respected because of what she and her team have built. I am honored to serve TICAS in a new capacity as the organization continues its trailblazing work on behalf of students and borrowers during this transition."

"I am so proud of all that TICAS has accomplished," said Asher, "putting student debt on the map as a national policy issue, making loan payments more manageable for millions through income-driven repayment, simplifying the federal aid application process, increasing state and federal grant aid, and winning stronger protections for students, borrowers, and taxpayers. It has been an honor to work with such talented and dedicated staff, board members, and external partners. I am especially proud that together we have improved policies and practices for the most economically vulnerable students and borrowers. TICAS' mission and work are more important now than ever, and I know the organization will remain a powerhouse in the years ahead."

The nationwide search for the organization's new president is being led by [Isaacson, Miller](#), one of the country's leading executive recruitment firms. "Our firm is dedicated to recruiting exceptional leaders for mission-driven organizations," said Isaacson, Miller vice president Ericka Miller. "TICAS' work to increase the affordability and accessibility of higher education for all could not be more critical at this juncture. We are thrilled to be working on this important search."

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An independent, nonprofit organization, The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) works to make higher education more available and affordable for people of all backgrounds. Our Project on Student Debt works to increase public understanding of rising student debt and the implications for our families, economy, and society. For more information see www.ticas.org and www.projectonstudentdebt.org or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/TICAS_org](https://twitter.com/TICAS_org).