

Dear Student,

I hope this letter finds you and your family healthy as we live through this pandemic. Over the last two months, we have worked diligently to provide support for students both inside and outside the classroom and hope that the enclosed funding provides you with additional support during this difficult time.

The enclosed check is a Student Emergency Assistance Grant provided to Vaughn by the United States Government. The grants are provided under the **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act** which establishes and funds the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and directs institutions of higher education to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. The CARES Act expressly requires that institutions provide the emergency financial aid grants to students "for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare). Only students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants.

How Vaughn Calculated Eligibility

Vaughn's goal was to assist the neediest Title IV-eligible students enrolled as of March 13, 2020 with a minimum of at least six credits. To do that, we are using the \$1,070,409 given to the institution to distribute to students who the Federal government already deems the neediest. We did that by using those who qualified for a Pell grant and have an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) of no more than \$5,576. Using that criteria, 718 students qualified for an emergency grant. The funding will be used as follows:

- \$1,500 for full-time students
- \$1125 three-quarter time students
- \$750 students enrolled with at least six credits

Vaughn did not award funds to anyone whose EFC was above the Pell-eligible limit and Federal guidelines did not allow the institution to award funds to anyone who was not Title IV-eligible, or any students enrolled exclusively in distance education courses.

Further Possible Implications of Receiving Funding

These funds are a grant, and not a loan, and will not need to be repaid.

However, right now, under the CARES Act, the funds you are receiving are taxable and will be treated as income. It is our understanding that this is something that Congress may amend in upcoming legislation. Should that change, we will advise you.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Beatriz Novoa-Cruz, Associate Vice President of Enrollment at Beatriz.cruz@vaughn.edu or (718) 429.6600 ext.114. Thanks,

Sharon DeVivo

Sharon B. Devir

President