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WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

UPDATED PRESS RELEASE

PCC Statement from the Office of the President

June 9, 2020

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by U.S. Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020, to provide economic relief from COVID-19. One section of the CARES Act established the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) which sent money to schools to use for emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the pandemic.

On April 30, 2020, Palau Community College (PCC) signed and returned to the Department of Education (US DOE) the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CARES Act. The total amount of CARES Act funds allocated to PCC is \$759,490. The CARES Act requires institutions to use no less than 50 percent of Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) funds to provide emergency financial aid grant to students.

PCC has received \$379,745.00 from the US DOE pursuant to the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students that was signed and returned to the US DOE on April 30, 2020. The CARES Act provides PCC with the ability to make funds available to students over a one-year period to help students successfully continue and complete their education. PCC is awarding the emergency relief as follows:

- Approximately \$176,078.00 will be awarded to eligible students who enrolled in Spring 2020 semester as of March 27, 2020.
- The remaining \$203,667 will be awarded to eligible students enrolled in Summer session 2020 and Fall semester 2020.

Emergency Financial Aid Grants

PCC will disburse the first batch of funds under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to Spring 2020 eligible students on Wednesday June 10, 2020.

Total amount of funds that PCC has received for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students is \$379,745.00.

Total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants disbursed to eligible students in Spring 2020 is \$176,078.00

Total number of Spring 2020 eligible students at PCC to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 is 330.

PCC students were notified of the availability of these emergency grant funds under the CARES Act through the institutional primary website, college Facebook page and campus bulletin boards.

Students were advised that these funds is to be used for those additional cost of attendancethat are related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 (including expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).

Funding Methodology

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) funds

PCC used the following methodology to determine which students receive Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

1. PCC distributed the CARES Act grant funds to students based on the available funding and enrollment status of students.
2. Maximum amount of award is \$615 based on available funding and number of eligible students.
3. Identify Eligible Students
 - Must be eligible to participate in programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). (Only Title IV eligible students may receive emergency financial aid grants). The criteria include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Be a U.S citizen or national, a permanent resident, or an eligible noncitizen
 - b. Have a valid Social Security number
 - c. Be registered with Selective Services(applies only to U.S. Citizens who are malesbetween agesof 18-25);
 - d. Have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent (GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting);
 - e. Not be in default on a Title IV loan
 - f. Enrolled in a degree or certificate in an eligible program
 - g. Be making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward his/her degree or certificate program.
4. Checks that are not picked up by students after 14 days will be sent to students' mailing address
5. PCC posted the information listed above on the institution's primary website.