

March 31, 2021

Dear Vanguard Students,

The second round of Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) contains provisions for funding grants to eligible students who have experienced disruption to their education due to COVID-19. As with the student grants that were available in Spring 2020, the U.S. Department of Education administers these funds and provides them to higher education institutions for the disbursement to eligible students.

Since the announcement of these funds, ASU-Beebe administration has been working to understand the federal guidance on student eligibility and to design a plan to distribute the funds within the federal requirements. I am pleased to share that ASU-Beebe has now received approval of our distribution plan and will begin distribution of student grants to eligible Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 ASU-Beebe students **the week of April 5, 2021.**

This update is to provide ASU-Beebe students with information about the process ASU-Beebe will use to award the grants.

- The amount of each award will be based on the number of credit hours in which a qualified student was enrolled on census day for both Fall 2020 and/or Spring 2021 and the student's Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by their current and complete FAFSA. Grants will range from \$52.50 to \$420 per semester depending on enrollment and EFC.
- Students who were enrolled in credit courses in Fall 2020 and/or Spring 2021 will not need to take any action to be considered for an award. We have the information needed to process your award.
- The CARES Act expressly requires that institutions provide the emergency financial aid grants directly to students.
- The awards will be processed through Nelnet. ASU-Beebe personnel will contact students by phone and/or email for further guidance. If you have not been contacted by Wednesday, April 7, please call 501-882-4500.

Please also be aware that on March 12, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan, which includes additional Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF III), making additional student grants available for qualified students in future semesters. We look forward to providing further information about future distributions as those plans are developed and approved.

I am very proud of the character our students have displayed as we have weathered this public health crisis, and I appreciate your continued support of our safety protocols. I also encourage you to get your Covid-19 vaccination at your first opportunity. It is an honor to be able to disburse these funds to support your educational journey.

Thank you,



Jennifer L. Methvin, Ph.D. | Chancellor  
Arkansas State University-Beebe