JWCC Community:

John Wood Community College has partnered with the U. S. Department of Education (USDOE) in the delivery of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), created under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

The CARES Act will provide emergency 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, transportation, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.

JWCC completed the Certification and Agreement with the USDOE on April 15, 2020. The agreement is an assurance that the institution will follow requirements of the stated agreement for usage and distribution purposes of the grant.

JWCC was awarded $1,245,792 from the CARES Act. 50% of those funds ($622,896) will be distributed for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. The remaining funds are restricted to be used for the institution’s expenses related to the disruption of instructional offerings during the pandemic.

We estimate there are approximately 1,420 students enrolled in the spring 2020 semester who may be eligible to participate in federal student aid programs and may be eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under the CARES Act. The USDOE does not allow these funds to be distributed to students who are classified as international, DACA, non-degree seeking, visiting, dual credit, or dual enrolled. Students are also excluded from CARES Act funds if the original course of study was planning to be offered in an online environment originally. If a student is in all original course offering online then they will not receive funds.

JWCC chose to distribute the CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students in two phases, as described below:

Phase 1: Automatic Grants. The CARES Act directed schools to prioritize students who demonstrate need and who meet qualifications of Title IV eligibility. As a result, JWCC chose to distribute automatic grants to students who were enrolled and completed coursework for the spring semester and that had a valid FAFSA on file for 2019-2020 with all requirements satisfied. Disbursement amounts:
• Full-time: $500
• Less than Full-Time (1-11 credit hours) $250

JWCC has already determined courses for summer will transition to all online. Students enrolled during the summer 2020, who meet Title IV eligibility and have a valid FAFSA on file 2019-2020 will be considered for an automatic grant. Funds will vary depending on resources. The College will determine at a later date concerning automatic grant disbursement for fall depending on funding and class modality.

Phase 2: Application-based grants. Additional CARES Act Emergency Grants are available to students through an application-based funding request process. The grant award amount will vary based on each applicant’s request and available funding. The maximum award amount will be $500. Applications will be available on May 18, 2020.

Students may apply for the CARES Act Emergency Grant by completing the following steps:
1. Go to <https://www.jwcc.edu/financial-aid/> and look for CARES/HIGHER Education Emergency Relief at bottom of page.
2. Review Information in attached link.
3. Click on Quick link for Emergency Relief Application and follow directions.

PLEASE NOTE: Students must complete a 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and meet the federal student aid eligibility criteria as determined by the USDOE to qualify for Phase 1 and Phase 2 CARES Act Emergency Grants. Any awards for fall enrollments must have a 2020-2021 application on file and all requirements satisfied for CARES Act funding consideration.

In Phase 1, JWCC plans to distribute $371,000 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 903 students under the CARES Act by May 19, 2020. Students who qualify for Phase 1 grants will be able to see these funds on their SOLAR account.

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| Number of Students (spring 2020) | Reason/Action |
| 214 | NO 2019-2020 FAFSA |
| 145 | Enrolled in regularly scheduled online courses for the semester |
| 74 | Stopped attending classes for the semester |
| 84 | Not meeting Title IV – FAFSA requirements not completed, Satisfactory Academic Progress not approved,  |
| 903 | CARE ACT funds distributed  |
| 1420\* | Total Student Reviewed  |

\*Another 375 students were automatically excluded from the review due to being non-degree seeking with the college, high school dual enrolled/dual credit, or enrolled in non-credit course offerings.

In order to help the entire JWCC community understand the CARES Act Emergency Grants to students and how to apply at JWCC, a list of Frequently Asked Questions was developed. The contents of this document can be found on the JWCC Financial Aid page at the following link: <https://www.jwcc.edu/financial-aid/>

If you have any questions, please forward them to mlechtenberg@jwcc.edu.

Stay safe and finish spring 2020 Blazer Strong!

Melanie Lechtenberg

Director of Financial Aid