



Message to Students

4-30-2020

2:04 p.m.

Sent from President Melby (President's Office email box) to AnnouncementsAllStudents with copy to AnnouncementsAllFaculty and AnnouncementsAllStaff

April 30, 2020

Dear Students,

Our Lady of the Lake University has received approximately \$1 million through the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) that is designated for emergency financial aid grants for our students. Every effort is being made to distribute these funds by the middle of May. However, the university must comply with spending guidelines specific to this act, but those guidelines have not been defined clearly yet. The university is seeking additional guidance in order to distribute the funds as quickly as possible.

Guidelines that have been made available include the following:

- Funds must go directly to eligible students. OLLU cannot use these funds to reimburse itself.
- Only students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended, may receive emergency financial aid grants. If a student has filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), then the student has demonstrated eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA. Students who have not filed a FAFSA but who are eligible to file a FAFSA also may receive emergency financial aid grants. The criteria to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA include but are not limited to the following: U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen; a valid Social Security number; registration with Selective Service (if the student is male); and a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting.
- Students must have been enrolled in spring 2020 to be eligible.
- The emergency financial aid grants to students are for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. The Department of Education has publicly stated that students who were enrolled exclusively in online programs prior to the outbreak are not eligible for awards under this act.
- These funds are taxable to the student and will be reported to the IRS.

Please note: While the federal government does not allow these funds to be distributed to students with DACA status or others who are ineligible under the HEA, OLLU is committed to assisting all our students who are dealing with emergency needs. We have received donations that we are using to help students who apply for assistance through our Student Emergency Fund.

OLLU also is eligible for additional funds through the CARES Act that are designated for the support of campus. As those funds and their guidelines become available, the university will work to ensure that they benefit students through instructional and student service support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane E. Melby". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Diane E. Melby
President