



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
Office of the President

May 11, 2020

Dear Hawk Family:

As you know the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our nation at all levels. Although much of the response has been focused on health and safety, Congress has also been focusing on the economic status of the country. In doing so, they passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

As part of the CARES Act, the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund has made available financial resources for the direct relief of students related to the COVID-19 response. On May 8, 2020, after a period of waiting for its application to be processed, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, received the initial portion of these federal funds. In this federal allotment, UMES will receive a total allocation of \$3,542,365 and 50% (\$1,771,183) is required to be awarded as emergency financial aid grants to students.

The CARES Act specifies that funds, in the way of direct case grants, should be used to assist students with “expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.” While the legislation limits eligibility for CARES Act funds only to students eligible to receive federal financial aid, excluding DACA and international students, we at UMES created a separate Student Emergency Fund account.

The CARES Act directed institutions to prioritize aid to students who demonstrate the highest financial need. We used a formula to identify students who would receive funding. This formula weighs on several factors including currently enrolled, meeting satisfactory academic progress, and each students’ reported household income.

Using this formula, we are working to distribute the funds to our students. These federal CARES emergency relief funds will be distributed directly to our students in a one-time amount through UMES’ disbursement partner, Bank Mobile. Students will receive these funds through their Bank Mobile account.

Finally, the UMES Student Emergency Fund account, will allow students to request help if they have additional needs during this time, or if they are not eligible for the federal emergency funds. As students have other needs, they will be able to get assistance through the UMES Student Emergency Fund by completing an application. If you wish to further help our students, please feel free to contribute to the UMES Student Emergency Fund account at: <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/HawkCovid>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Heidi M. Anderson".

Dr. Heidi M. Anderson, President