

## Statement to the St. Louis College of Pharmacy Community

DATE: Monday, May 1, 2020  
TO: All Students, All Faculty, All Staff  
FROM: John A. Pieper, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAPhA, President of the College  
RE: Important Updates on CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

Students:

I hope you are taking care of yourselves as you complete final exams. This semester has been challenging. I am proud of your perseverance and grateful for your flexibility as we have navigated this difficult time.

I miss seeing you on campus, and I wish I could congratulate you on finishing the academic year in person. Know that as I have discussions with faculty, staff and the College's Board of Trustees, you are at the forefront of our thoughts. Even though we can't be together right now, the entire College community is behind you.

Today, I want to share important information with you about the **CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund**. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed the CARES Act in March, allocating \$14.25 billion in emergency funds for institutions of higher education.

These funds are being made available to colleges and universities using a formula based on the enrollment of Federal Pell Grant recipients and those students who do not receive Pell grants. The College was required to apply for these funds through two separate grants – one that represents the student portion (\$339,148) and one that represents the institutional portion (\$339,148). The student portion of the funds will be distributed directly to students in the form of emergency grants for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations.

As soon as the CARES Act was passed, we began working immediately to understand the law and how to make the most impact for our students. Guidance from the U.S. Department of Education has been evolving, and securing these funds for our campus has been a complex process.

The College has not yet received the CARES Act funding, but please know we are working as quickly as possible to obtain this funding and distribute it to you.

At this time, I can share the following information:

- Colleges and universities have been instructed to develop models for distributing funds. We believe **all students at the College have been affected** by the disruption of campus operations, and we will distribute funds in a way that provides emergency grant relief to all students.
- We are aligning with federal recommendations to account for students' financial need and Federal Pell Grant eligibility during the 2019-20 award year. Pell-eligible students will receive grant checks for \$750, and non-Pell-eligible students will receive grant checks for \$250.
- Once we receive the CARES Act funding, we will distribute checks to students as soon as possible. This funding is intended to assist with expenses you have incurred as a result of disruptions to on-campus learning and resources. The emergency grants will not appear as financial aid and will not be applied to outstanding balances on student accounts. You are not

prohibited from using the funds to make payments on outstanding balances on your student account if you choose to do so.

**To prepare for the distribution of emergency grants, please make sure your mailing address in Campus Web is up to date. If you have questions, please contact the Office of the Registrar at [registrar@stlcop.edu](mailto:registrar@stlcop.edu).**

We know the financial impact of the pandemic has been significant, and some students have faced immediate, dire financial crises.

Don't forget that, in addition to the CARES Act funding, the College also has a Student Emergency Fund administered by the Students of Concern Committee. If you are experiencing a crisis or financial emergency, please contact Dr. Heather French, vice president for student affairs, at [heather.french@stlcop.edu](mailto:heather.french@stlcop.edu).

Again, I wish you well during final exams. Take care of yourself, and remember how proud we are of your success!