## Wayne Community College American Rescue Plan (ARP) Federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Reporting

In compliance with the American Rescue Plan (ARP) requirements, Wayne Community College (WCC) acknowledges that the College signed and returned to the Department of Education the College's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the ARP. This acknowledgment affirms that the College has used, or intends to use, the student allotment portion of the funds received under Section 2003(a)(1) of the ARP to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

The College was funded \$3,177,613 from the Department of Education in ARP Emergency Relief funds pursuant to the College's Certification of Agreement for Financial Aid Grants to Students.

The method used by the College to establish which Curriculum students were eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants via an automatic award used information obtained from various departments, including Admission and Records and Financial Aid and Veteran Services, to determine:

- Enrollment in the semester during which funds are awarded
- Registration and/or acceptance for enrollment in an eligible degree or certificate program
- A student has a valid social security number
- A student is a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or eligible non-citizen
- A student completed a FAFSA with a valid EFC.

The estimated total number of the College's students eligible to be considered for an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to a student under Section 2003(a)(1) of the ARP as of March 31, 2022, is 1410.

WCC used a team of staff including the Director of Financial Aid and Veteran Services, Associate Director of Financial Aid, VP of Academic and Student Services, Associate VP of Academic and Student Services, Comptroller, Vice President for Workforce, Continuing Education and Community Engagement and Vice President of Administrative and Financial Services/Chief Financial Officer to identify, strategize, and plan for timely disbursement of ARP Emergency Grant funding.

Students who are determined eligible for the ARP Emergency Grant funding will receive an email stating:

Dear Student.

WCC recognizes the ongoing challenges you may be experiencing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand the importance of your education and wish to make every resource available to you to help you continue your education at the College.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides additional funding for student financial aid grants through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III). Recipients of a HEERF III grant may use the funds for expenses, including tuition, food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare. In addition, students may, but are not required to, use the funds to satisfy an outstanding account balance.

Our records show that you may be eligible for a HEERF III grant during your enrollment. Awarding of these funds will be based on enrollment status and financial need as determined by the FAFSA (EFC ranges 0 - 8500) for the academic year you are awarded. If you wish any amount you are awarded to be applied to an outstanding account balance, please email <u>Wendy Potter</u> or call 919-739-7093. If you do not qualify for the automatic award, you may complete an application and describe the financial impact Covid 19 has had on you and your family. The application is located on the Financial Aid Online Forms page or can be accessed <u>here.</u>

If you have any questions about your financial aid, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

Kind regards,

WCC Financial Aid & Veterans Services

WAYNE COMMUNITY COLLEGE 3000 Wayne Memorial Dr. PO Box 8002 Goldsboro, NC 27533 919-739-6735 wcc-finaid@waynecc.edu

WCC will allocate federal student emergency grants to curriculum students enrolled in eligible degree programs if students have a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file for the academic year, using the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to establish the level of need. WCC will also consider the enrollment status for the semester when determining the award amounts.

| EFC       | FT |     | 3/4 time |     | HT |     | 1/4 t | ime | LT1/4 |  |
|-----------|----|-----|----------|-----|----|-----|-------|-----|-------|--|
| 0.4500    | ¢. | 000 | +        | C7E | 4  | 450 | •     | 450 | \$    |  |
| 0-1500    | \$ | 900 | \$       | 675 | \$ | 450 | \$    | 150 | 75    |  |
|           |    |     |          |     |    |     |       |     | \$    |  |
| 1501-5711 | \$ | 750 | \$       | 550 | \$ | 350 | \$    | 125 | 60    |  |
| 5712 to   |    |     |          |     |    |     |       |     | \$    |  |
| 8.5K      | \$ | 600 | \$       | 425 | \$ | 250 | \$    | 100 | 45    |  |

Students whose EFC exceeds \$8,500 or who did not complete a FAFSA may complete an application to demonstrate the need for emergency funds. Additionally, students awarded through the above matrix can complete the same application to demonstrate they have a need

beyond the standard award. Students can apply and be awarded each semester they attend. The application is located on the Financial Aid Online Forms page or can be accessed directly by clicking <a href="here">here</a>. Award amounts for the application will be as follows:

Fulltime \$550 Three-Quarter time \$375 Half time \$200 Quarter time \$ 75 Less than ½ time \$ 35

Students are advised to contact the Financial Aid and Veteran Services office with any questions.

Students who have past due balances created on or after March 13. 2020, can be awarded an amount up to the balance on their account. In these instances, the institution defines need by the balance since the balance prevents the student from furthering his education. When the institution awards a student with a previous balance, the student must complete a postcard verifying his mailing address. The same postcard allows the student to select whether to have the funds posted to his student account or mailed to the verified address on the postcard. The institution will also accept an email from the student with the same information. Verbal permission to post the funds to a student account is not acceptable.

In rare instances, students who do not meet the previously described requirements have been determined to have a need, or a student may exceed the defined need. In these instances, an award can exceed the amount defined based on the professional judgment of the FA administrator. Exceptions in these instances will consider the student's need for funds necessary to continue their education. Including, but not limited to, books, transportation, childcare expenses, etc., to justify the award or increased award amount.

As of the closing date of this report (March 31, 2022), checks were prepared and mailed to 1048 curriculum students totaling \$589,416.08 during the quarter ending March 31, 2022.

Continuing Education students are eligible for funds from ARP. Students will be notified by making in-person announcements in classes that include contact information for the scholarship/grant coordinator in Workforce Continuing Education. In addition, the following social media post will be made periodically:

Are you enrolled in a Workforce CE occupational course this semester, or did you complete a class this semester? If your class was/is ten (10) hours or more in length, you are eligible to apply for HEERF III Funds. A student must demonstrate need by supplying documents as indicated on the application or describing how Covid has financially affected them. Students will receive an amount based on the hours of their course.

Applications may be found on our WCE Scholarship webpage under the heading OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE and must be turned in to Maxine Cooper. Applications were

accepted throughout the Spring 2022 semester <a href="https://www.waynecc.edu/continuing-ed/scholarships/">https://www.waynecc.edu/continuing-ed/scholarships/</a>

The cost of attendance determines award amounts, and need is determined by the unemployed or underemployed student status.

As of the closing date of this report (March 31, 2022), checks were prepared and mailed to 19 Continuing Education students totaling \$3,315 during the quarter ending March 31, 2022.

We have observed that our dually enrolled students are also experiencing financial difficulties due to COVID, more so now that their parents are no longer receiving expanded unemployment benefits or stimulus payments. During the first quarter, we opened the ARP funds to our dually enrolled students. While automatic awards were not done, a student could apply using the same application as our curriculum students.

As of the closing date of this report (March 31, 2022), checks were prepared and mailed to 3 dually enrolled students totaling \$1,950 during the quarter ending March 31, 2022.