



## **HEERF Quarterly Reporting - Student**

October 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

1) Southwest Mississippi Community College signed an agreement with the United States Department of Education to accept funds as part of the CARES Act. The college agreed to use at least half of the CARES funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) to provide students with Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

2) & 3) The college has received a total of \$6,029,286 from Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) I, II & III over all time periods. From October 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, the college disbursed \$1,076,600 in HEERF Emergency Financial Aid Grants directly to students.

4) & 5) During the reporting quarter, approximately 1,673 students were eligible for HEERF Emergency Financial Aid Grants, with 1,263 of those eligible students receiving payments.

6) SMCC's methodology for distributing HEERF Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students was to consider full-time students (minimum of 12 semester credit hours) as eligible students. SMCC then prioritized the neediest students by using Pell eligibility to make that determination. Disbursements of HEERF Emergency Financial Aid Grants in the amount of \$1,125 were paid directly to Pell eligible students. Students found to be ineligible for Pell received a direct payment of \$810 from these funds.

7) The following letter was mailed to every student receiving a HEERF Emergency Financial Aid Grant disbursement as guidance:

# SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## HEERF HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS

November 12, 2021

The enclosed check has been issued to you from SMCC using Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF II) - Student and MSI portions. The payment is a financial aid grant and does not have to be paid back. **The payment can be used by students to pay any outstanding SMCC account balance or to register for future classes. Please keep in mind, students with outstanding SMCC account balances are not allowed to receive a transcript or register for future classes.**

The College awarded HEERF II financial aid grants to eligible students in the following manner: SMCC prioritized eligible students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell grants. SMCC distributed \$1,125.00 to all eligible students who received a Pell grant during the Fall 2021 semester. Also, SMCC distributed \$810.00 to all other eligible students enrolled during the Fall 2021 semester. Eligible students are considered to be full-time (at least 12 credit hours) students. Students considered to be part-time (11 credit hours or less) students or students enrolled in dual credit, dual enrollment, and MI-Best are not considered to be eligible students for HEERF II financial aid grants.

HEERF II was authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260, signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020. HEERF II Student and MSI funding from the United States Department of Education is to provide emergency financial aid grants (commonly known as CARES Grants) to assist eligible students with expenses related to the disruption of campus activities due to the COVID-19 crisis. Southwest Mississippi Community College (SMCC) signed an agreement with the United States Department of Education to accept funds as part of the CARES Act.

Students enrolled in the Fall 2021 semester, who did not receive a financial aid grant from HEERF II funds and believe they are entitled to such a grant may submit a request to the college as to why they are eligible via email at the following email address: [businessoffice@smcc.edu](mailto:businessoffice@smcc.edu).