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Student Life_Message from Chancellor for CSAO Student Distribution

Robert Q. Dana
University of Maine

Dannel P. Malloy
University of Maine System

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Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

Fwd: Message from Chancellor for CSAO student distribution TODAY

1 message

Madison Riley <madison.s.riley@maine.edu>
To: Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 11:08 AM

—
Madison Riley
She/Her/Hers
University of Maine

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robert Dana <rdana@MAINE.EDU>
Date: May 1, 2020 at 3:52:57 PM EDT
To: "UM-STUDENT-LIFE@lists.maine.edu" <UM-STUDENT-LIFE@LISTS.MAINE.EDU>
Subject: Fwd: Message from Chancellor for CSAO student distribution TODAY
Reply-To: rdana@MAINE.EDU

Subject: Sent on behalf of Chancellor Malloy: Emergency payments are on their way

UMS Students –

Today marks the end of classes in a semester that has been unlike any other in the history of our universities.

Your academic and personal lives were upended by the sudden onset of a worldwide pandemic unseen in a century. To protect the health and safety of our campuses, communities, and state, our universities had no choice but to empty their residence halls and transition all work and instruction to online and remote modalities.

Many in our families have lost jobs, and many others have struggled to balance work, learning, and childcare from home. The pandemic's unprecedented disruptions have been especially tough for the thousands of you who are the first in your family to attend college and who may have relied on their campus communities for support not available at home.

From the start, minimizing the pandemic's impact on you has guided every decision I've made.

That's why I immediately pledged that our residential students would be reimbursed for their unused room and board charges. And then we returned that money to our students within days of the closure of our residence halls, making us among the first in the nation to do so.

And that's why our Presidents, Chief Business Officers, and Financial Aid Directors have been working around the clock to determine how to best disburse the \$8.63 million that Congress provided to our universities through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (also known as the CARES Act) to help students pay for emergency expenses caused by the pandemic's disruption to our university operations.

Last week, we decided that 85 percent of each university's CARES Act student money will be distributed to all eligible undergraduate and graduate students, with award amounts varying based on the number of credit hours you are taking this semester. Today, I am pleased to let you know that we've started processing those payments – which for most students will be several hundred dollars – again making UMS a national leader in providing support directly to our students as soon as possible.

Eligible students who have a FAFSA on file should not need to do anything to receive your payment, which should come as early as next week via direct deposit or check. For those who have not completed a FAFSA in the past, your university will be providing details in the coming days on how you can certify your eligibility for these funds so we can get them to you without further delay.

They'll also let you know about a simple process by which those with additional financial need can apply for special emergency funds that have been set aside using the remaining 15 percent of the CARES student monies your university received, which will be further supplemented by a portion of CARES dollars received for institutional relief that we've decided to redirect to our students.

UMS deeply regrets that U.S. Department of Education guidelines do not permit us to pay CARES Act money to our international students, who we value as essential members of our university communities. The disruptions they've experienced are no less than – and in many cases exceed – that of other members of our communities. I've therefore asked our Presidents to look for other ways to support international students using unrestricted resources, including the privately raised crisis funds already in place at several of our universities. Students who were enrolled in exclusively online programs before the onset of the pandemic are also ineligible for relief under the federal guidelines.

I'd like to specifically acknowledge the contributions of your student representatives to the UMS Board of Trustees. They provided invaluable input to my team on how this money should be distributed, showing incredible care and compassion for their fellow students in those conversations.

In closing, I'd like to pay tribute to *you*. Your determination and dedication to stick with your studies through the disruptions and anxieties caused by the pandemic has been nothing short of extraordinary. The resiliency you've shown will serve you well and far into the future.

Best of luck on your exams next week -- you are almost there, and we are right there with you. And to our graduating seniors, if I might share a part of a favorite Irish proverb, may the road rise up to meet you, and may the wind always be at your back.

Sincerely,

Dannel P. Malloy
Chancellor

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<http://lists.maine.edu/cgi-bin/wa?TICKET=NzM3NTc2IG1hZGlzb24ucy5yaWxleUBNQUIORS5FRFUgVU0tU1RVREVOVC1MSUZFIH5dBgLYiELs&c=SIGNOFF>