

THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

April 9, 2020

Dear College and University Presidents:

These are unprecedented and challenging times for your students and for you. I know you find yourselves grappling with issues you never imagined, and I want to assure you we are here to support you in your missions and to quickly provide the resources and flexibilities you need to continue educating your students. That's why we're focused on implementing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act quickly and faithfully.

I gave my team a charge as soon as the CARES Act was signed into law: get support to those most in need as quickly as possible. That starts with college students whose lives have been disrupted, many of whom are facing financial challenges and struggling to make ends meet.

As you know, the CARES Act provides several different methods for distributing roughly \$14 billion in funds to institutions of higher education. The most significant portion of that funding allocation provides that \$12.56 billion will be distributed to institutions using a formula based on student enrollment. Of the amount allocated to each institution under this formula, at least 50 percent must be reserved to provide students with emergency financial aid grants to help cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

certificate, institutions may draw down their emergency assistance funds using the Department's G5 system.

The Department is also working expeditiously to allocate the remaining funding that is reserved for institutional use, and we will provide details on how institutions may apply for this institutional funding, as well as for other emergency funding, in the coming days. Thank you for your continued work on behalf of America's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. O'Neil", is positioned above a solid black rectangular redaction box.