Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

December 31, 2021

Thomas More University has signed a certification and agreement with the United States Department of Education to participate in the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) created by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The HEERF was supplemented by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP).

This relief fund has provided Thomas More University up to $8,087,562 in emergency funds, of which at least $3,486,077 is required to be used for direct emergency assistance to students for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare.

To date, Thomas More University has directed $3,473,008 in relief aid toward emergency assistance to students in need. There are approximately 1,572 current students at Thomas More University who are eligible for HEERF funding, and 2,427 current and former students have received funding since the beginning of the pandemic.

The Financial Aid Office used two main distribution methods for HEERF funds:

1. Stimulus – This method distributed relief funds to all Title IV eligible students to help defray costs associated with the pandemic. Stimulus amounts ranged from $150 - $2,000 based on financial need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

2. Emergency Fund – This method distributes relief funds to students who apply for additional assistance whose needs were not met by the stimulus distribution. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and emergency grants are awarded to eligible students in amounts that are based on the severity of their situation and specific needs, as well as their overall need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The application for the Emergency Fund can be found at https://form.jotform.com/201104658769056