

ASSOCIATION of  
JESUIT COLLEGES  
& UNIVERSITIES  
AJCU

April 17, 2020

Dr. Chris McCaghren  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Dr. McCaghren,

The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) is grateful to the U.S. Department of Education for prioritizing the needs of students and releasing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act's Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) in a timely manner. As you know, our students and our institutions are struggling and suffering as a result of COVID-19, and the recovery from this crisis will require additional short-term and long-term investments from the federal government.

Our institutions are waiting for additional guidance from the Department to address many outstanding questions that have been submitted by our partner higher education associations.

One of the more pressing questions is the eligibility of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) students for emergency education grants through CARES. It goes without saying that within our Jesuit higher education community, our DACA students are equal members of our vibrant student body yet struggling more perhaps, in the face of this national disaster due to uncertainty regarding their status. Their needs, as with so many of our students, are overwhelming right now and we are hopeful that guidance will clarify that we can abide by the certification and agreement of the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students and offer support to all students with need on our campuses, including our DACA students.

Recovery within the higher education sector will take time and on-going federal assistance will be critical. Federal support will help higher education return to strength and enable us to continue to educate our next generation of scientists, teachers, public servants, and others who are so critical to the well-being and vitality of our nation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to reviewing the guidance. If you have any questions, please contact me directly or AJCU's Director of Government Relations, Jenny Smulson, at [jmulson@ajcunet.edu](mailto:jmulson@ajcunet.edu).

Sincerely,



Rev. Michael J. Sheeran, S.J.  
President  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
E-mail: [Msheeran@ajcunet.edu](mailto:Msheeran@ajcunet.edu)

BOSTON COLLEGE, MA  
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