**U.S. Department of Education Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund**

As provided by the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub.L.No.116-136, 134 Stat.281 (March 27,2020), directs universities in receipt of federal funding under Section 18004 of the CARES Act to submit a report to the Secretary of Education describing the use of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”). Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act allows institutions to use up to 50 percent of the funds received from Section18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act for reimbursement of expenditures related to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus so long as such costs do not include payment to contractors for the provision of pre-enrollment recruitment activities, including marketing and advertising; endowments; or capital outlays associated with facilities related to athletics, sectarian instruction, or religious worship (collectively referred to as “Recipient’s Institutional Costs”).

Reporting for the applicable enumerated criteria provided by the Department of Education on May 5, 2020 for the Institutional Portion of funding is as follows:

▪Fayetteville State University signed the Funding Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students on April 9,2020 as required for submission of the Institutional Portion of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Formula Grants Authorized by Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

▪Fayetteville State University received $2,542,344 on May 5, 2020 from the Department pursuant to the Funding Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students for disbursement in accordance with Section18004(a)(1) and Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act. Upon receipt of the award, Chancellor Peggy Valentine and her leadership team met with the principal investigator (PI) Pamela Jackson, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to determine how the funds would be allocated.

▪The total amount of Emergency Institutional funding used to reimburse the University for expenditures related to costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus under Section 18004(a)(1) and Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act as of October 26, 2020 is $2,542,344. The expenditures for reimbursement include technology infrastructure for remote learning transition, Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), and cleaning and sanitation of University administrative buildings, classrooms, and housing facilities. Upon receipt of the award, Chancellor Peggy Valentine and her leadership team met with the principal investigator (PI) Yolanda Bonnette, Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration and Title III Programs to determine how the funds would be allocated.

**Executive Summary & Quarterly Report Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act**

H.R.748, 116th Congress, Section 18004(a)(2), Fayetteville State University received an award notification #P425J200088 for $7,631,989 dated May 5, 2020. Section 18004(a)(2)(f) of the Recipient’s Certification Agreement stipulates a report should be submitted to the Secretary quarterly. Therefore, Fayetteville State University submits the following:

Upon receipt of the award, Chancellor Peggy Valentine and her leadership team met with the principal investigator (PI) Yolanda Bonnette, Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration and Title III Programs to determine how the funds would be allocated.

The initial sessions were to:1) determine allowable cost and flexibility of the law, 2) identify areas of need, and 3) develop a spending plan to address the intent of the law to prevent, prepare, and respond to COVID-19.

The University initiated a comprehensive, inclusive, and collaborative method to maximize the resources and create an effective approach to address the challenges. Each Cabinet member addressed the impact of COVID-19 on their unit and the need for funding to support the additional requirements. As a result, topical areas including operational cost, reimbursement, facilities, infrastructure, technology, student support, and academic programs were selected.

Four (4) departments were identified to implement selected spending priorities. Of which, are Academic Affairs, Business & Finance (Facilities Planning), Student Affairs, and Information Technology.

**DEPARTMENTAL PROJECTS**

Pursuant to Section 18004(a)(2) –Cost associated with a transition to distance education, faculty and staff trainings and payroll.

**1.Academic Affairs-$1,455,755**–Teaching and learning environments in an institution of higher education are crucial to the academic success of students. COVID-19 has created several challenges, which includes a paradigm shift of academic platforms, in which experiential and linear learning, advising, coaching, tutoring, research, enrollment, retention and graduation can result in long-term negative outcomes. Therefore, faculty, staff and students are pressed to transform the academic norm, while maintaining the university’s distinction of academic excellence. Thus, the following are being addressed:1) converting majority of the academic programs to a diverse delivery system which includes face-to-face and online, 2) certify majority of faculty to teach online, 3) equip schools and colleges with adaptable academic resources, 4) provide faculty technical support and assistance, 5) upgrade hardware and software, and 6) classroom safety protocols. The Master’s Program received $1,025,755 of this funding to support the needs of the students in the program.

Pursuant to Section 18004(a)(2), the recipient may use the award to defray expenses incurred, including lost revenue, and reimbursement for expenses already incurred. In addition, to include 18004(a)(2)(e) to prevent, prepare for and respond to Coronavirus.

**2.Business & Finance (Facilities Planning) - $5,063,734** -The largest portion of the funding focuses on critical needs designed to respond, prevent and prepare the university community to address challenges as a result of COVID-19, which includes, but not limited to: staffing, PPE resources, cleaning/sanitizing administrative and academic facilities throughout the campus and establishing social distance environments in preparation for the return of students, faculty, and staff. The goal is to prevent the continued spread of the virus and provide protection for all individuals that will access the university campus. Reimbursement allocations and revenue losses will provide financial support in response to emergency actions and expenditures occurred after March 13, 2020.

Pursuant to Section 18004(a)(2) (3) Recipients’ Certification and Agreement –Although the CARES Act does not require the recipient to use at least 50% of this award for the grants to students, the Secretary urges recipients to devote the maximum possible amount for the award to students’ grants. *....for any component of the student’s cost of attendance, as defined under Section 472 of the HEA including food, housing, course materials, technology healthcare, and childcare(“Student Grants”).*

**3.Student Affairs-$400,000** - An all-inclusive approach to student life, with safety and education as the principle focus, provides the opportunity address the following: structural environments, physical and mental health, mitigating risks relative to group gatherings, classrooms, dorms, transportation, cafeterias, and etc., while providing an exceptional academic experience for the students. It is imperative that we continue to remain laser-focused on the safety and academic excellence, as students are our number one priority.

Pursuant to Section 18004(a)(2), Recipients’ Certification and Agreement -Technology cost associated with a transition to distance education by expanding remote learning programs and build the university’s IT capacity.

**4.Technology –$712,500** - A successful delivery of online education, academic excellence, institutional e-commerce and access. The university must expand bandwidth and data storage, upgrade and transform all forms of internal and external communications. Although these changes are a must, the greater challenges are to maximum security and integrity of student and university records. CARES Act funding will support: 1) cyber security, 2) remote staff support, 3) bandwidth increase, and 5) Zoom ready classrooms.