

EC Community Update May 6, 2020

Dear EC Community,

While it is encouraging to hear states, including New York State, beginning to announce their plans to reopen, the immediate future of our activities at EC remain unclear. In Governor Cuomo's guidelines to re-open NY, education falls in the fourth and final phase. We are investigating what this means for our campus community and will share updates as we learn more from local and state officials. In the meantime, work continues on new safety practices and protocols for when the College reopens.

## **CARES Act Funding for Students**

Elmira College has received funding from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund portion of the CARES Act to support emergency aid for students. Eligible expenses include food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, child care, and other similar expenses that pose a pressing financial need. To qualify, you must be an EC student who:

- is or could be eligible to receive Title IV Funds (e.g., U.S. citizens and non-citizens possessing a green card); and.
- demonstrates a financial need related to the coronavirus pandemic.

To be considered for funding, please review the information in the attached file and return the completed application to <u>caresactaid@elmira.edu</u>. The form is also available on the homepage and Student tab of <u>MyEC</u>.

## **Looking Ahead**

We are cautiously optimistic that students will return to campus this fall, with new practices and protocols in place to ensure the safety of our students and employees. This will likely mean limitations on class size, new housing arrangements and housekeeping guidelines, new arrangements for dining, and creative strategies for campus activities.

The combination of lost revenues (including lower enrollments) minus savings (cancellation of events and a closed campus), along with the general sense of uncertainty about the future, are creating budget concerns for 2020-2021. As we work to finalize next year's budget, we must take action that enables the College to continue delivering on its mission, while ensuring the sustainability of our 165-year-old institution. College administrators are working closely with the Trustees to finalize next year's budget that will serve us well as we adapt to the 'new normal.' I will share information once it is finalized.

I know these uncertain times have been hard on all of you and I am gratified by the way our EC community has rallied to support each other. From messages of hope shared on social media, to current students and alumni supporting virtual admissions efforts, to employees donating leave time to their co-workers in need - we truly are #OneElmira.

Yours,

Chuck Lindsay, PhD

President