

## **Siena Heights University ARP Act Student Aid Report #1 (09/30/2021)**

PR/Award No. P425E201321-20B

### **Introduction**

In accordance with the reporting requirements of Section 18004(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Siena Heights University (SHU), an institution receiving funds under section 314(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, is providing the following information.

### **Acknowledgment of Funding and Certification**

SHU acknowledges that the University signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education's Certification and Agreement. The institution further certifies it will use a minimum of 50% of the funds or \$772,940, received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, an equal amount received under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act and \$2,634,319 received under section 2003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

### **Total Awards**

SHU received a total of \$5,096,877 under Section 2003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), of which at least \$2,634,319 will be provided directly to students impacted by campus disruptions due to the novel coronavirus.

### **Funds Distributed to Date**

As of September 30, 2021, SHU awarded 58 qualified students a total of \$36,334.45 in CRRSA Act and \$192,350.55 of ARP Act funds for a total \$228,685.00 in financial aid grants for extenuating COVID circumstances. All students registered on or after March 13, 2020 were eligible to apply for a grant through a verification and request process.

### **Student Eligibility**

SHU determined that all students registered on or after March 13, 2020 were eligible to receive ARP ACT funds through Siena Heights University's extenuating COVID circumstances process. 58 former and current students requested and a total of \$228,685 was granted, of which, \$207,764.92 was requested by students to apply directly to their student account balance and \$20,920.08 was refunded to students through SHU's independent third-party vendor, BankMobile Disbursements.

### **Method Used to Determine Which Students Received Aid and How Much**

SHU is committed to assisting all eligible full- and part-time students that have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic to the greatest extent possible with the ARP Act funds to cover financial needs that include food, housing, technology, course materials, health/child care, and other related costs.

During this quarter a total of \$228,685.00 of ARP Act support funding was used for extenuating circumstances experienced by students. Students are required to request online through an easy web-based drop-down menu application. Students determined eligible for the standard payment and students eligible for Title IV, but did not file a FAFSA, may apply for the carved out additional support.

The use of the additional support is determined by a campus community committee led by the University's Dean for Students, along with a faculty member and the Director of Student Accounts.

University students not eligible for CRRSA Act funding are encouraged to apply for support through the Saint's Strong Fund with an online application. The fund was established specifically to assist students with emergency needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding source is donations received from trustees, alumni, faculty, staff, and other friends of the University.

### **Instructions or Directions Given to the Students**

On March 31, 2021 an email was sent to all eligible students indicating they would receive an emergency grant provided by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA) aimed at helping students during the pandemic. The funds may be used for any portion of a student's cost of attendance (e.g., tuition and fees, room and board, cost of books, supplies, transportation), or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care.

The Office of Marketing and Communication developed a Coronavirus Information page directly on SHU's web site located at [www.sienaheights.edu](http://www.sienaheights.edu). Within that is a dedicated webpage that includes the CRRSA Act funding Grants FAQs, which links to the application for the Extenuating Circumstances and Saint's Strong grants ([www.sienaheights.edu/shucaresfaq](http://www.sienaheights.edu/shucaresfaq)). Additionally, SHU offers a Daily Announcement email service that goes to all students, faculty, and staff. Within the publication is an alert notification entitled Latest SHU Coronavirus Updates with links to access the University's Coronavirus response and FAQs web pages.