

## **Siena Heights University ARP Act Student Aid Report #2 (03/31/2022) - FINAL**

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 of \$772,940 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 \$5,317,637 under Section 2003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), of which at least \$2,634,319 was provided directly to students impacted by campus disruptions due to the novel coronavirus. Siena also received \$3,035,978 under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act and \$1,622,355 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act of which \$772,940 was provided directly to students from both grants.

### **ARP 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.

From October 1 until December 31, 2021 a total of \$102,165.83 was awarded to 29 students for Extenuating Circumstances, \$2,307,000 was awarded to 1,769 students as direct refunds and 63 students received an additional total \$32,802.84 for exceptional need. A total of \$2,441,968.45 was disbursed during this quarter.

As of, December 31, 2021 a total of \$4,180,199 in all HEERF funds was awarded to Siena Heights University students.

During the period ending March 31, 2022, one student's HEERF award of \$650 was returned to the University and then awarded to 4 students through the extenuating COVID circumstances program. As of March 31, 2022, all funds received, \$4,180,199, through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund – Student Aid Portion as been disbursed.

## **Student Eligibility - ARP**

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 application process.

From July through September 30, 2021, 58 former and current students requested and received a total of \$228,685 in grants, of which, \$207,764.92 was requested by students and apply directly to their student account balance and \$20,920.08 was refunded directly to students.

From October 1 through December 17, 2021, 29 former and current students applied and were granted a total of \$102,165.83 in Extenuating Circumstance grants, of which, \$94,915.83 was applied directly to their student account balance and \$7,250.00 was refunded directly to students.

In October SHU decided to stop the Extenuating Circumstances grant application process and determined that 1,769 degree seeking students were eligible to participate, and therefore received grants under the ARP Act of 2021.

In February of 2022, one's student HEERF award of \$650 was returned. This was then awarded to 4 students for extenuating circumstances that applied through SHU's internal Saint's Strong program. The Saint's Strong Fund was funded by outside donations for COVID related student needs.

## **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. The University awarded 86 percent (\$2,307,000) of the total ARP Act support to all known degree seeking eligible students by awarding and refunding all full- and part-time PELL students \$2,500 and \$1,500 respectively and full- and part-time non-PELL students \$1,100 and \$650 respectively on October 22 and November 3, 2021. The status of full- and part-time students was based on enrollment for Fall 2021 Semester. SHU considered degree-seeking undergraduate students enrolled in twelve (12) or more semester hours to be full-time for undergraduate and nine (9) semester hours for graduate studies. Students with credit hours of less than 12 for undergraduate and 9 for graduate are considered part-time.

For the Extenuating Circumstances Grant, students are required to request funds 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.

On December 17, 2021 the balance of all HEERF Student Aid grant funds was disbursed to 63 student who reach out to Financial Aid to receive additional financial aid adjustment under section 479A if the HEA. These students were not eligible to receive additional aid so a HEERF grant of \$520.68 was given to each of these students.

All refunds processed directly to students are completed through SHU's independent third-party vendor, BankMobile Disbursements.

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

On October 22, 2021 an email was sent to all eligible students indicating they would receive an emergency grant provided by the American Rescue Plan Act 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 ARP Act funding Grants FAQs, which links to the application for the Extenuating Circumstances grant ([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.