

May 5, 2020

Fellow Busters,

I hope that this letter finds you well. I know that this semester has been anything but normal, but I appreciate the patience and commitment that you have displayed to be able to adjust and work towards completion of your spring classes.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that student funds have been made available to Garden City Community College through the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES Act. This is also referenced as the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, (HEERF). Through this act, funding is available to qualified students who have experienced hardships because of the COVID-19 pandemic. After reviewing the eligibility requirements and determining how the funds that were provided to GCCC would be allocated, we have based our determination on selection criteria so that we can begin awarding these funds.

Since you are receiving this letter, you have been designated as a qualified recipient of some of these funds. Grant amounts will vary by student based upon the number of hours that you were enrolled for Spring 2020 at GCCC. Enclosed you will find the payment that is being made to you by GCCC to cover costs that you incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By accepting this payment, you acknowledge that you have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 during the Spring 2020 semester. If you do not have expenses related from disruption due to COVID-19, you may return this check to Garden City Community College, Attn. Business office at 801 Campus Drive, Garden City, KS 67846. I also want you to understand that even though you are receiving this payment, these funds have not been applied to your student account, and you MAY still have a bill with GCCC. Please call the business office at 620-276-9619 if you have questions.

The enclosed payment that you are receiving can be used towards bills or expenses that you have incurred such as technology, healthcare, rent, moving, college expenses or other expenses. Eligible students for Summer 2020 may also be considered for CARES Act funding if Spring 2020 funds are not exhausted. In addition to CARES Act assistance, a small amount of institutional funds has been set aside for any GCCC student experiencing financial hardships stemming from the COVID-19 crisis. Spring 2020 or Summer 2020 students can apply https://gcccks.formstack.com/forms/emergency_grant. will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis by the Financial Aid Office.

Any GCCC student who has experienced financial hardship this semester is encouraged to apply for emergency assistance. Funds are intended to be used for technology, health care, childcare, course materials, rent, food, moving or other expenses.

We stand ready to help you in any way that we can. You are always a Buster, and if we can help answer questions regarding this letter, future enrollments, or anything overall, do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are committed to you and helping you continue your academic journey. We wish you all the best and do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan J. Ruda". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "R" and a distinct "J" and "R" in the middle.

Dr. Ryan J. Ruda, President
Garden City Community College