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**For Immediate Release**

##### **Shawnee Community College officials working to obtain guidelines for US Department of Education student Cares Act funds distribution**

May 8, 2020, | Ullin, IL. – Administrative officials at Shawnee Community College have announced that they are actively working to assist students who may be eligible for CARES Act funding through the US Department of Education guidelines. Officials say they want to ensure students can obtain quick access to relief funds through the recently passed legislation.

The CARES Act Higher Education Relief Fund, provides funding to institutions to make emergency financial aid grants available for students whose lives have been disrupted during Spring semester 2020, many of whom are facing economic challenges and struggling to make ends meet. Students cannot apply for assistance directly from the US Department of Education but will be able to work with their institutions as information and guidance for distribution becomes available. Additional requirements for receiving assistance include the following: Students must be a US citizen who has obtained a high school diploma or equivalency and males over 18 must be registered with Selective Service.

Shawnee College will have the responsibility of determining how grants will be distributed, the amount of each student grant, and the development of any instructions or directions that are provided to students about the grant. Speaking on behalf of the institution Interim Vice-President of Student Success, Dr. Lisa Price said: “In addition to reviewing guidance provided by the US Department of Education, we are working with other institutions throughout the state to ensure we are providing prompt and accurate distribution of funds to our students.”

Officials were recently notified of further legislative guidance, which is set to be released early next week to help institutions determine how funds are distributed. The College will be updating its website shawneecc.edu to ensure students receive information as it becomes available. For more information, visit our website at shawneecc.edu or call 618.634.3280.

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