

ETBU Certification and Agreement for Use of Funding from the *American Rescue Plan (ARP)*

1. The University received notice of funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) for Student Assistance Emergency Grants in Grant Award Notification (GAN) #P425E201208-20B on 5/17/2021 from Department of Education Acting Assistant Secretary Michelle A. Cooper. As instructed in that GAN, because the University had already signed a Recipient's Funding Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CARES Act, funding for emergency financial aid grants to students under ARP was automatic as long as the University drew down a portion of those funds within 90 days, which it did.

2. The total amount of funds that ETBU received from ARP to make emergency financial aid grants to students is **\$2,242,392**.

3. The total amount of emergency financial aid grants to students that ETBU has distributed from ARP to date (through 11/15/2021) is **\$1,323,000**.

4. The estimated total number of students at ETBU who are eligible to participate in programs under ARP and are eligible to receive emergency financial aid grants is approximately **1,450**.

5. The total number of students who have received an emergency financial aid grant from ETBU under ARP to date (through 11/15/2021) is **878**.

6. Methodology for awarding emergency financial aid grants to students. University staff, under the leadership of President Dr. Blair Blackburn, formed a COVID Relief Task Force that consisted of the Vice Presidents and several other key staff members. This task force immediately began working to determine what requirements existed for the use of the ARP HEERF funds. The Task Force noted that these funds, unlike HEERF I (CARES Act) funds, could be used for students who did not file a FAFSA, and that the University was required to give preference with these funds to students who demonstrate "exceptional need" as was also required in the awarding of HEERF II (CRRSAA) funds. The Task Force used similar methodology as it did with the awarding of HEERF II funds to determine and prioritize those students with "exceptional need."

The Task Force developed a Questionnaire/Survey, which was emailed to 1,407 eligible ETBU fall 2021 semester students on September 30, 2021. These students were given a reasonable time to complete the survey, and results from the surveys submitted were tabulated immediately using Excel. A Scoring Rubric was developed by the Task Force, and was applied to all surveys received. 878 students completed this survey. These students' scores were tabulated, and these 878 students were awarded grant amounts of \$750, \$1500, \$2500, or \$5000, depending on their scoring from the rubric. Based on this scoring, 198 students were awarded \$750, 538 students were awarded \$1,500, 137 students were awarded \$2,500, and 5 students were awarded \$5000, for a total award

amount in the first round of grants to 878 students of **\$1,323,000**. The University reserved the remaining \$919,392 of HEERF III (ARP) Funds to assist students returning in the spring 2022 semester.