



Office of the President

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April 6, 2020

Secretary Betsy DeVos
U. S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos:

On behalf of the University of Wisconsin System, and the students, faculty, and staff at each of our 13 universities and 26 campuses, I write with enormous gratitude for the support the UW System will receive from the federal government through the CARES Act. It provides much-needed regulatory relief and financial assistance that will directly aid our students and universities.

Individually and collectively, we are all facing enormous pressures and challenges as a result of this pandemic. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our universities daily are far-reaching and touch every aspect of our institutions, as they do across all sectors of our state and national economy. We are learning of the costs and impacts of COVID-19 daily, and one of the few things that is clear is that the full impact will not be known for some time.

Our most immediate priority is to continue to serve our students to the very best of our ability and to thoughtfully adapt our institutions' response as the pandemic evolves. Thus, I am writing to ask the Department of Education to move as quickly as it can to announce a release date for the funds in the Education Stabilization Fund and provide institutions of higher education guidance on how funds for institutional aid and emergency grants to students can be used related to COVID-19 issues. This will allow our institutions to actively plan and inform students about how to access the federal stimulus portion dedicated to helping them.

I think it is important that I stress the urgency of information about and distribution of these funds to UW System universities and campuses and institutions of higher education across the country. The prompt action by Congress in passing the CARES Act is greatly appreciated because it can help us with the immediate challenges of disrupted operations, increasing expenses, and lost revenue. We will be faced in April with decisions about layoffs and, without information and CARES Act funding, will have to take more drastic steps than if we have the financial assistance now available.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if there are ways the University of Wisconsin System can help the Department of Education in fulfilling our collective intent to help our students achieve their dreams and support the nation's economic recovery.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Cross".

Ray Cross
President, UW System

Cc: Bob King
Michael Brickman
Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation