

From: Catherine Holbrook
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:58 PM
Subject: Announcing the Trailblazers Keep Going initiative

Hello Trailblazers,

I write to you today with a bit of good news, and some reminders. This week, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) announced the **Trailblazers Keep Going Initiative**, which will deploy the first tranche of the College's federal CARES Act funding allocation to directly aid students in need.

The CARES Act has provided \$1.3 million in funding to MCLA, out of \$14 billion allocated to support postsecondary education students and institutions nationally. Colleges and universities are required to utilize the first tranche of this funding (around \$650,000) to assist students experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Trailblazers Keep Going Initiative: Important Information for Students in Need

- Much of this funding will be distributed through the [MCLA Resiliency Fund](#). If you are a student experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19, please fill out the [Resiliency Fund Application](#).
- Students can apply for funding to cover rent payments, food, internet expenses, course materials such as laptops, and even the cost of a summer course to help stay on track due to the transition to remote learning (MCLA's first summer session begins in May and will take place remotely).
- We have already been able to distribute nearly \$30,000 to more than 75 MCLA students in need. Many thanks to all who donated; this additional CARES Act funding will allow us to help many, many more students.

Earlier this month, MCLA reimbursed resident students for partial housing, meal plan, and parking costs, due to COVID-19 moving the campus to remote instruction for the semester, which began March 30. The total of those reimbursements was \$1.5 million. Colleges and universities are not permitted to replenish these refund expenses with CARES Act funding.

Please contact me if you have questions about the Trailblazers Keep Going initiative or potential circumstances that may qualify for emergency funding through this initiative. You can email me at Catherine.Holbrook@mcla.edu or join one of my open office hours, Tuesday at 11 a.m. or Wednesday at 4 p.m. You will find the links for these virtual hours on the [Community Connection](#) webpage.

Upcoming Student Town Hall

A town hall meeting for students has been set for 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 30. We encourage you to attend; there will be time to ask questions at the end of the meeting. This town hall meeting is open to all MCLA students in all academic programs and degree paths. Click on the invitation below to attend.

[Town Hall Invitation](#)

SGA Elections

Your Student Government Association is currently in the process of holding elections for next year's Executive Board, Senate, Class Councils, and Student Trustee. I encourage you to consider running for a position and to vote in the upcoming election to be held in Canvas.

To run for a position, you need to sign up at one of the links below by 11:59 p.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, April 28:

SGA Eboard & Senate Position Sign Ups

<https://mcla.presence.io/form/sga-senate-position-sign-ups-spring-election-2020>

SGA Class Council Position Sign Ups

<https://mcla.presence.io/form/sga-class-council-position-sign-ups-election-spring-2020>

The elections will take place on Canvas from Thursday, April 30, 2020 – Saturday, May 2, 2020.

Thank you again for the resilience and dedication you have shown in these difficult circumstances. I know that it is frustrating to continue moving forward in your academic journey while so much is still unknown. We will continue to make sure you receive new information as soon as we have it. The COVID-19 pandemic has left many things uncertain for all of us, and we thank you for your patience and understanding. It is the strength of this community that will keep us moving forward. As an MCLA student, you are at the core of that community. You are the reason for the work we do here on campus and for our mission as the state's public liberal arts college.

Again, please contact me with any questions, ideas, etc., and I hope you will attend the April 30 town hall meeting.

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