Each eligible Morris College student was mailed a check for $1,410.68 to assist them in getting through the COVID-19 pandemic. The novel coronavirus pandemic is having a drastic financial impact on students and their families. Students were not permitted to return to the campus after leaving for spring break last March in order to help ensure their safety against the virus. However, all students were able to complete their semester’s work online.

The college was delighted to assist students by distributing over $740,000 made possible through the federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act passed last March by the United States Congress. The goal was to get the money in the hands of students as fast as possible. President Staggers said, “Our students are our highest priority, and we’re always concerned about their physical good health and their financial health.” The funds can be used for the novel coronavirus disruptions such as food, housing, healthcare, technology, and child-care expenses.

Students were most happy to receive the money and expressed their gratitude. Most expressions were similar to that of Davon Canty who said, “Thank you for the unexpected but very well needed [money] in these horrific days during COVID-19.” Most Morris College students qualify for the federal Pell Grant program and need financial assistance.

In addition to the CARES Act funding, the college was also able to provide another $20,000 in funding to students through an Emergency Aid Program. The Emergency Aid funds were awarded to students who made requests and demonstrated need. The funding for this program was made available from the United Negro College Fund and Project Success, a federal program.

Mrs. Ruth Pendergrass, President of the Morris College National Alumni Association (MCNAA), and Mr. Russell Boyd, Treasurer, presented President Leroy Staggers with a check for $35,000 on Tuesday, May 12, 2020. President Staggers stated, “This gift is awesome and very timely, coming in the mist of this COVID-19 pandemic where the college has sustained a financial hit like a tsunami. Thank you President Pendergrass, Mr. Boyd, and the entire Morris College National Alumni Association membership for your support.”

Annual giving among alumni is up this year overall. To date, including the abovementioned $35,000 check, the MCNAA has given $185,817 total toward it annual goal of $300,000. This current giving performance is remarkable because annual giving is one important indicator of a strong National Alumni Association. The current annual campaign ends June 30, 2020.

The novel coronavirus pandemic has had a catastrophic impact on all of higher education nation-wide, but most especially on small HBCUs such as Morris College. Student enrollment is the primary means by which Morris College generates income, and all students have been at home since March 6, 2020 for their safety due to COVID-19. Therefore, the college has had to return to students via refund checks room and board funds for the period of time students have been at home. Because the college was able to complete the semester online, tuition costs have been unaffected and need not be refunded to students. To compound financial matters more, the Fall 2020 semester is uncertain, due to the continuing and on-going concerns about the virus and students’ safety on campus.

Therefore, the $35,000 MCNAA check is timely and much needed. Thank you, and please continue to support Morris College.
Despite the upheaval that the Coronavirus pandemic has created in our lives in recent months, Morris College is arranging for students to continue their studies through offering an all on-line program of instruction for the Summer 2020 session. During this time, all courses as well as teaching and learning activities will take place utilizing the college’s Learning Management System (LMS).

The Summer 2020 session will consist of four (4) weeks, beginning with a deadline for completing registration on June 8, 2020 and the start of classes on June 9, 2020. Students will be able to take a maximum of six (6) credit hours during this year’s Summer session. Dates for completing final examinations are July 6 and 7, 2020. The schedule of courses to be offered this summer is available at the link: https://www.morris.edu/morris-college-pre-registration-form.

To officially enroll for the Summer 2020, students are advised to take the following steps:

1. Review a paper or electronic copy of your current transcript and confer with your faculty academic advisor to determine your academic status as well as outstanding course needs to complete your degree program. If you have never attended Morris College before or were not enrolled this past school year, please start your process by contacting the Office of Enrollment Management and Records at 1-866-853-1345.

2. Review the Summer 2020 Course Schedule in order to make course selections from the menu of available classes. Remember, you can take up to six credit hours this summer.

3. Contact the college’s Financial Aid Office (803) 934-3238 to determine your eligibility for financial aid. Complete whatever forms or outstanding information required for you to receive the financial assistance you need to attend the Summer 2020 session.

4. Complete the on-line fillable Course Registration form indicating the courses that you intend to take for the Summer 2020 session which is available at https://www.morris.edu/morris-college-pre-registration-form.

5. Contact the college’s Business Office (803) 934-3411 in order to determine fees owed and make payment arrangements. Payment of fees can be made by cash, cashier’s check, certified check, money order or major credit card. Students with course-related questions or concerns should contact their individual faculty advisor, major Division Chair, or the Office of the Academic Dean (803) 934-3213, in that order. Registration-related questions should be directed to the Office of Enrollment Management and Records. Representatives from these offices are also available on campus should students need to conduct any business matters in person.

We wish you and your loved ones a safe and productive summer.
Morris College would like to pay tribute to the memory of Reverend Doctor William P. Diggs, Sr., who was a strong supporter of the college and formerly served as a professor of sociology and former member of the Board of Trustees.

Diggs served as pastor of the Trinity Baptist Church of Florence for 50 years. His ministry was not confined to the walls of Trinity. The passion for enriching the lives of his constituents led him to serve on various educational boards, faith-based organizations, and committees that focused on education and social justice. Dr. Diggs was a staunch financial supporter of Morris and many other institutions of higher learning.

The recipient of numerous awards Dr. Diggs was bestowed the Order of the Palmetto in 1996, the highest civilian award given by the Governor of South Carolina. He was a great preacher, teacher, pastor, and Statesman who has left a blueprint of service and stewardship for each of us to follow.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

THOMPSON SCHOLARSHIP FOR EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

A potential applicant for a Thompson Scholarship for Education Excellence requires:

1. Must have a "B" High School average or at least a 2.70 College GPA.
2. Must have passed the Praxis Test or scored at least a 22 on the ACT or 1200 on the SAT.
3. Must Major in Teacher Education
4. Must live in one of the following counties: Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter, or Williamsburg.
5. Must be a new freshman or new transfer student entering Morris College.
6. Must Enroll at Morris College as a full-time student taking all college credit courses.

The Scholarship Committee will award two scholarships for the 2019-2020 academic year. The awardees will receive up to $20,000 not to exceed the cost of education.

HOW TO APPLY

The applicant must:
- Submit a completed copy of the application
- Submit two letters of recommendations from one classroom teacher and one from a guidance counselor, principal or assistant principal.
- Submit a copy of your High School or College transcript.
- Submit ACT, SAT, or Praxis test results.

The deadline to apply for the scholarship is August 1, 2020

The application, test results, and required letters of recommendations should be sent to:

Office of Financial Aid
Mrs. Sandra S. Gibson
Attn. Thompson Scholarship for Education Excellence
100 West College St.
Sumter, South Carolina 29150
Meet Sheila South, Director of Career Services. She is available to assist students with resume writing, interviewing tips, job opportunities, and internships.

Mrs. South contact information is:

Mrs. Sheila South
Director of Career Services
ssouth@morris.edu
(803)934-3192

**COVID - 19 RENTAL ASSISTANCE**

To anyone who needs rental assistance. See full details at the bottom of the email.

Basic qualifications:
Applicants must meet several requirements to qualify for the program including: Applicants must be South Carolina residents with proof of ID.

- Applicants’ household income at the time of application must be at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for the county in which they reside. Income eligibility by county can be found here.
- Applicants’ employment/income must have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning March 10, 2020, or later.
- The rent assistance payment must bring the rental balance current.
- The applicant CANNOT currently receive any subsidized rental assistance.
- The applicant CANNOT be approved for or a recipient of the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation ($600 additional weekly benefit)

All of the information is on the SC Thrive website https://scthrive.org/.

**GRADUATE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Attention graduates there is a new job opportunity on the horizon. With increased COVID-19 testing the number of confirmed cases will increase, and the need for more contact tracing will also. Contact tracers track down people with a potentially contagious disease. The contact tracer can alert that person, who may not know they’ve been in contact with a corona virus patient, that they should self-quarantine and get tested. Currently, SCDHEC states that there are 230 contact tracers in South Carolina, and they’re in the process of identifying another 770, for a total of 1,000 contact tracers in the state. For more information, visit www.scdhec.gov/form/tracer.

Amazon has job openings in the Columbia area. The website to view all of the job openings is AmazonDelivers.jobs or they can text CAENOW to 77088 to get information on jobs with Amazon.