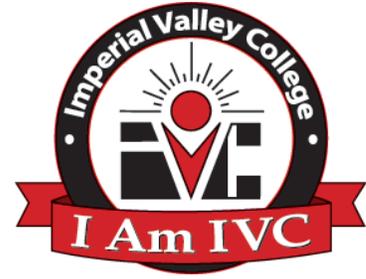


For Immediate Release

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## **IVC Foundation Announces COVID-19 Emergency Scholarship/Response Fund**

An emergency scholarship fund of \$20,000 is available to Imperial Valley College students who lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as an additional \$10,000 grant for a COVID-19 Response Fund, the IVC Foundation has announced this week.

Of that \$20,000, \$8,000 was donated by retiring IVC counselor Mary Lofgren, \$12,000 is a match by the Foundation. The additional \$10,000 comes from a grant awarded by the Imperial Valley Wellness Foundation aimed at equitable health resources and well-being to individuals in need.

The COVID-19 Emergency Scholarship will be for \$500 each. In order to qualify, a student must be in good standing, must show proof of the lay-off, and must write a one-page essay on why they need the scholarship. The deadline to apply is May 19.

“As of today, after only one week since the announcement, we have over 100 applications and expect between 250 to 350 before May 15th,” said Foundation Executive Director Rod Smart.

Lofgren, who retires in June after 29 years at IVC, has been donating about \$1,000 annually to the Foundation for several of those years. Those donations went into a fund to help students purchase books. Because so many students have lost their jobs in recent weeks, Lofgren asked that the funds instead be used to help them.

“Mary’s incredibly generous gift has enabled us to double the amount available, and the grant from IVW has enabled us to triple it,” Smart said.

The \$10,000 awarded by the Imperial Valley Wellness Foundation is part of \$265,000 in COVID-19 Response grants for 12 non-profit agencies serving Imperial County’s most vulnerable residents. Bianca Bisi, IVC Interim Associate Director of Student Equity and Achievement, applied for the grant, which also will be dispersed by the Foundation.

The distribution of the \$10,000 COVID-19 Response Fund will directly support our most vulnerable students who are struggling to meet their basic needs such as accessing food, hygiene supplies, and technology.

Added Smart: “We ask anyone who would like to help these students through this time of need to please contact us at [givetoivc.com](http://givetoivc.com).”

**ATTENTION IVC STUDENTS:**

IVC Foundation has set up an emergency scholarship fund for those students who have lost their jobs due to the COVID- 19 pandemic.

**COVID-19 Emergency Scholarship Criteria: 40 @ \$500**

Student must be in good standing

Must show proof of lay-off

One page essay on why you need the scholarship

APPLY NOW ONLINE: <https://forms.imperial.edu/view.php?id=484552>

**DEADLINE is May 19, 2020**

If you have any questions please contact me, my information is provided below.

Stay safe and healthy.

Thank you,

**Monica Rogers  
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