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Dear Student,

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to ease the financial strain across the country created by COVID-19. A portion of that economic relief package included a Higher Education Emergency Relief fund to provide emergency grants to students to help them pay expenses caused by the pandemic's disruption.

On April 28, Bentley received \$1.3 million in CARES Act funding, which will be allocated to emergency financial aid for approximately 2,000 students across the university based on eligibility criteria. Since receiving the money, the university worked to develop a process and framework to help as many students as possible in meeting their emergency financial needs during this challenging time – and to do so in compliance with guidelines and regulations from the U.S. Department of Education. After reviewing your FAFSA application, the university determined that you were eligible for the enclosed check. Students did not need to submit any application to the university for these funds, and no funds were applied directly to student accounts to cover outstanding balances. All funds are being distributed directly by check to eligible students, are nontaxable and will not impact your financial aid package.

By depositing this check, you are certifying that these funds will be only used to cover expenses related to disruptions caused by the pandemic. Per federal regulations, these expenses must be related to food, housing, course materials, new technology needs (e.g. new laptop or internet service for online classes), transportation due to leaving campus, health care or childcare. You should not use these funds for any other purpose. If you do not understand or do not accept this limitation, please do not deposit this check, but instead please contact CARES@bentley.edu.

We recognize that this semester has presented unprecedented hardships and hope that this emergency funding can help you cover a portion of unplanned expenses. If you have any questions about the enclosed check or the CARES Act emergency financial aid process, please visit Bentley.edu/cares to read more about Bentley's distribution guidelines.

We wish you and your family good health and safety in the months ahead.

The Bentley University Cabinet

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