

Low Income Student's Emergency Funds—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The accounting method will require public schools — which are only receiving new federal money based on the poor students — to receive multiple times more money for private schools than the CARES Act requires.

In Passaic, New Jersey, where the majority of public school students are poor, the district will need to reserve \$1.4 million instead of \$300,000 for private school students, according to

an education advocacy group in that state. Montana estimates it will need to reserve \$1.5 million for private schools rather than \$206,469 if believes the law requires. The New York Times reports.

This will only increase the challenges that the highest poverty schools face. Before the pandemic even hit, public schools serving the highest-poverty communities had \$1,000 less

per student than those educating affluent students. These shortfalls are likely to expand based on current economic conditions.

During the Great Recession, states like North Carolina and Florida cut public school funding by 20% or more in three years. Poor communities there and elsewhere were the hardest hit.

The practical effects of these cuts were increased class sizes, unfilled teacher vacancies, high-

er percentages of uncertified teachers and schools where critical support staff like nurses and guidance counselors were missing. Some school districts were in such dire straits that they teetered on bankruptcy and considered closing some schools.

One solution to the current problem is for Congress to re-examine its original intent even more clearly. The \$3 trillion

relief bill passed by the House includes a provision that would do that.

The quicker option is for Congress to use its oversight powers to force the Education Department to concede that it made an error. That happened earlier this year when it reversed course on its plan to change the method for allocating funds to rural schools.

Those options, however, can be slow and uncertain. That's one

reason Indiana State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jennifer McCormick went ahead and told her districts to ignore the guidance this week.

The law is on McCormick's side. Her action offered a clear path forward for state and local officials across the nation who don't believe that waiting for the political process to correct itself is fair to the country's children who need help now.

NC Legislators Worried—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

distributed nearly half of the COVID-19 funds that North Carolina is receiving from Congress' chief virus relief law. The Legislative Building, which had been closed to the public for four weeks due to health concerns, reopened to visitors Monday.



Building capacity is capped at half of what the fire code allows, and members, staff and visitors were subject to temperature checks before going inside. The House retained for this week its recent operating rules that kept its gallery closed to only the media and staff and allowed members to vote remotely.

"Our citizens have had to make changes to their daily lives," Senate leader Phil Berger said after removing a surgical mask for a news conference in which reporters complied with social distancing guidelines. "The legislature is no different."

Still, members of the commerce committee met in person in the adjoining Legislative Office Building, although the proceedings were still aired online.

Both Berger and House Speaker Tim Moore said the General Assembly's primary job during the session — expected to last at least through the end of June — is to ensure state government

can withstand a revenue drop-off during the next fiscal year. The decline could be as high as \$4 billion, according to the leaders.

Cash and other reserves in North Carolina's coffers should help address the gap for this year and next, Berger said. He's also hoping the federal government will allow legislators to use some of the rest of the state's share of federal relief funds — another \$1.9 billion — to help fill additional gaps. Berger said he wants to avoid the spending cuts, layoffs and furloughs that Democrats had

to make during shortfalls during the Great Recession in 2009 and 2010.

During the commerce committee, some outside speakers waiting for unemployment benefits also expressed frustration with Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper, whose administration runs the unemployment office and who issued orders closing businesses and restaurants for dine-in service in March.

While benefit claims application have fallen for four consecutive weeks, Sunday's applications alone — nearly 7,000 — are still double the weekly amount the

division had received before the pandemic. And legislators continue to hear from constituents at their wits' end. They spoke of waiting hours on the phone to get questions answered, getting knocked off the state's online file system or waiting interminably for benefits.

DONATIONS

Continued from page 1

"We just want our jobs back," said Julie Savage of Wake Forest. She said her husband is a physician assistant who was furloughed in March. She told senators her family would have lost their house had it not been for her husband's military retirement.

Lockhart Taylor, an assistant commerce secretary who leads the Division of Employment Security, apologized to the speakers for the delays. "I'm sorry for all that you have gone through."

Taylor said 350 new unemployment benefit agents brought online Monday bring the people employed to handle claims to nearly 1,000. Taylor's committee members praised Taylor for his work ethic, several Republicans said Cooper should have given Taylor's office more time to prepare for a flood of applications before the governor's executive orders shuttering businesses were announced.

"Music, I think, is really important as a way for us to communicate with each other in these isolating times," she said.

Her hope: to inspire copycats who will fund stimulus serenades across the country and in New Orleans.

Adonis Rose, artistic director for the jazz orchestra and one of the musicians performing at the serenade, said the 20 of the group's members who typically perform all over town are now unemployed due to the pandemic and subsequent business closures.

Rose said the gift was a boost to musicians who have been unemployed and in quarantine for more than two months.

"This was great for the musicians to keep the musicians working and also to show support for the health care workers and the patients affected by the virus," Rose said. "Being able to bring them together, to be able to do it for such a great cause, was amazing."

There's enough money left over for a second concert, planned for later this month at the Lambeth House, the retirement and assisted living facility where a dozen died early on in the pandemic.

ECSU

Continued from page 1

Reauthorization Act of 2018. The purpose of the WIAAB is to develop strategies and recommendations that would encourage women and girls to enter the field of aviation.

The WIAAB will assess education, training, mentorship, outreach, and recruitment of women in the aviation industry. Board members represent a diverse range of backgrounds and expertise, including major airlines and aerospace companies, nonprofits, business, education and more.

Chancellor Dixon was nominated for a seat on the board by University of North Carolina System Interim President William L. Roper. In his nominating letter, Dr. Roper outlined with Chancellor Dixon's leadership in building ECSU's aviation program.

Since assuming the role as ECSU's 12th chief executive officer in December 2018, Chancellor Dixon has signed a memorandum of understanding with the United States Coast Guard to provide additional tuition-saving choices for ECSU juniors and seniors in the aviation science program interested in enlisting. Elizabeth City is home to the largest Coast Guard base on the eastern seaboard, and this arrangement makes the university an indispensable pipeline that keeps Air

Station Elizabeth City supplied with diverse leadership and skilled talent.

ECSU offers the only four-year aviation degree in North Carolina, and she has overseen the expansion of ECSU's H1-plane fleet and the creation of the university's unmanned aircraft systems, or drone, degree program.

"ECSU is a leading force in aviation, not just in North Carolina, but across the entire region," said Dr. Roper. "Dr. Dixon leads this institution with a strategic eye to expand its presence. She has served as chancellor for just over a year (including her tenure as interim chancellor), and she has already overseen efforts that have significantly revitalized the campus and expanded enrollment numbers."

Prior to becoming ECSU's chief executive officer, Chancellor Dixon served as a senior administrator at the University of North Carolina System Office. She arrived at the System Office in 2008, and in 2014, she was promoted to Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. In this capacity, Dixon was responsible for overseeing policies that led to student success and access across the System's 17 institutions.

SC STATE

Continued from page 1

surable or positive results from the efforts of President Clark from his tenure," Funny said. He added that the vote of no confidence was based on "the state of affairs of the university" and not on Clark.

The university's trustees voted Thursday to extend Clark's contract through June 2022, with a performance-based renewal option in the future, news outlets reported.

The association says it wants the board to issue Clark a one-year contract extension instead, and establish a national search committee to find a new president.

Board Chair Rodney Jenkins defended the trustees' decision and said in a statement that keeping Clark would provide "continuity of operations" amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"We acknowledge and consider all feedback received from stakeholders," Jenkins added.

Clark was named president of the historically black university in 2016. His appointment came after the 1990s period of the entire board of trustees over financial mismanagement that had placed the university's accreditation on probation.

Can African Americans Remain Sheltered In Place?

By Robert Louis Shepard
Special To The Carolinian

There was an article published May 8, 2020 in *The Atlantic* by staff writer Adam Serwer. In the article Serwer stated, and I quote, "The pandemic has exposed the bitter terms of our racial contract, which deems certain lives of greater value than others." Unquote.

I like Serwer's term "racial contract." He used the sad and tragic death of Ahmaud Arbery, the African American young man that was killed in Georgia by two white men as he jogged to eloquently speak about the racial divide in this nation. Arbery now joins a long and growing list of African American men and women who have died at the hands of on and off duty white police officers and white common citizens with no sense of justice brought about in these cases.

Serwer titled his article, "The Coronavirus Was an Emergency Until Trump Found Out Who Was

Dying." With it being reported that African Americans contract and die from Covid-19 (C-19) at a higher rate than any other ethnic group in society, the title of the article is somewhat unnerving. Why is this?

As the country sets to reopen, will those in power find it necessary to put in place measures to keep whom they consider the highly affected group (African Americans) away from the more pristine segment (whites) in the society? Could the unspoken racial contract give rise to new C-19 policies calling for separation of African Americans from the dominant population to reduce the spread of the deadly virus? Remember, the goal is to "Keep society safe."

In 1619, C-19 is just the latest event that shines a bright spotlight on the racial contract with clarity, revealing that this reality is a part of the DNA fabric of America, which is why Serwer can accurately use the expression "the racial contract" in the subheading to his article. The question then is, "Are African Americans considered part of the society that is trying to be kept safe?"

With this background I will take a journey that some will not have never taken. I do not believe that it is too far to the left. That's okay. But I believe if what follows was put into practice on a massive scale it could help uplift African Americans everywhere.

As a race, African Americans have never been valued in America. Collectively, the race is looked upon as a liability, whose presence causes an embarrassment to society and is often deemed as having no redeemable asset value in any form. To that end, the latest report on the economy will benefit the dominant ethnic group, African Americans are not part of the reasoning for the push to reopen the country.

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A Call to Stay Put

This Shelter-in-Place or lockdown mode shows African Americans that they can live with less movement and with less spending. The question is, "Can African Americans continue in a Shelter-in-Place mode right now, and not rush back out to join the reopening that is mainly for white America?" And, "Can African Americans stay in lockdown mode a while longer and avoid crowding back in so soon and begin heavy 'SPENDING'?"

Personally, I will share how the front side of C-19 is preparing me for the backside of the Coronavirus. This lockdown shows me that I can live with less movement and with less spending which results in more saving in many areas of my life. To date, financial resources on gas spending have been saved, there has been less wear and tear on my automobiles and on my body, and I have been able to enjoy a higher level of peace of mind.

What's presented here is radical. But continually being subjected to the racial contract since their arrival in America, and there is no indication that they will not continue to make positive, incremental progress.

What's presented here is radical. But continually being subjected to the racial contract since their arrival in America, and there is no indication that they will not continue to make positive, incremental progress.

I've concluded that remaining in my lockdown mode longer is double. If as African Americans we spend at the rate that economic reports say we do, the broader establishment would soon feel our collective absence

from the marketplace economically, if such a stand were taken. I believe that economic fallout from such action could be used to leverage a better outcome for the African Americans, especially relating to demonstrating a higher degree of self-sufficiency and the ability to open a business.

Tribute Broadcast Planned For Late Music Exec Andre Harrell

NEW YORK (AP) — A tribute to Andre Harrell, an influential music executive who discovered Sean "Diddy" Combs and died earlier this month, will air Sunday.

The memorial broadcast dubbed "Mr. Champagne and Bubbles" — a nickname of Harrell's — will feature tributes from Chris Rock, Mariah Carey, Jamie Foxx, Babyface, Naomi Campbell, Lee Daniels, Clarence Avant, Russell Simmons, Kimora Lee Simmons, Robin Thicke and more. It will air commercial free on BET, BET Jams, BET Soul and REVOLT TV, where Harrell served as vice chairman.

Harrell, who died at age 59, founded Uptown Records and shaped the sound of hip-hop and R&B in the late 1980s and '90s with acts such as Mary J. Blige, Heavy D & the Boyz, A.B. Sure! and Guy, and the R&B trio that also included megaproducer Teddy Riley, the leader of the New Jack Swing movement.

In the early '90s, Diddy be-