



CMI

College of the Marshall Islands

Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

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Attention Students:

Recently, an article in the *Marshall Islands Journal (MIJ)* highlighted a CMI student debt forgiveness initiative. While the article brought attention to this significant program, it did not include key information regarding its purpose, eligibility criteria, or implementation. This has understandably caused confusion among students and families.

To clarify; a program was developed to address the outstanding student debts (*Muri*) that remain collectible. CMI understands that these financial burdens can hinder students from returning to school, applying for Title IV funds such as Pell Grants, and completing their education. The program represents CMI's commitment to meeting its Mission by providing higher education opportunities to all students, particularly those facing financial challenges.

Eligibility for the Debt Suspension Program

The program is not a blanket of forgiveness of all "*muri*," but is a carefully designed initiative to assist students who meet the following criteria:

1. **Pell Grant Eligibility:** Students must be eligible to receive Pell Grants, or other Title IV funds, to ensure they have the financial resources needed to pay for their tuition moving forward.
2. **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP):** Students must comply with CMI's SAP Policy, demonstrating their commitment to academic success.
3. **Institutional Errors in the Eight-Week Accelerated Program:** Students whose outstanding balances resulted from "institutional errors" in this program, will be eligible.

CMI recognizes the confusion caused by the *MIJ* article and the influx of inquiries from students and families seeking clarification. While we welcome the community's interest in this program, it is essential to emphasize that this initiative is focused on assisting qualified students who meet the eligibility requirements.

Students with outstanding balances who want to learn more about the program, or explore returning to school, are encouraged to visit the College to speak with members of the Financial Aid and Business Offices. We are ready and eager to assist you in every way possible to help you in your academic success.

~ **The Senior Leadership Team (SLT)**