



# RUST COLLEGE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **RUST COLLEGE CLEARS OVER \$150,000 IN STUDENT DEBT FOR THE SPRING 2020 – SUMMER 2021 SEMESTERS.**

**HOLLY SPRINGS, MS** – Rust College President Ivy R. Taylor, Ed.D. has announced that over \$150,000 of student debt has been cleared for the Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, and Summer 2021 semesters.

Rust College, the oldest historically black college in Mississippi, made the decision to provide financial relief for students who were unable to continue their education amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic due to financial hardship. Rust College is utilizing funds from the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to cancel outstanding student debt and bring student accounts to a zero balance. This process does not impact students' future financial aid eligibility as it is intended to be a one-time distribution of funds. Rust College is using the funds to assist in covering the costs of all student balances for the 2020-21 academic school year so that students can return to in-person learning this fall.

Rust president, Dr. Ivy R. Taylor, said “This past year as President has been challenging as we navigated uncharted territory and this unprecedented pandemic. COVID-19 continues to challenge higher education institutions in ways we never could have imagined. I feel an increased responsibility to ensure students have the resources needed to continue their education without delay. These funds have made it possible for Rust College students to continue on their academic journeys toward success.”

Rust has recently released their [Campus Reactivation Plan](#) for returning to campus for the fall semester. Move-in for new students is August 13-15 and August 19 for returning students. Masks and social distancing will be required on the college's campus. Although vaccinations are not

being required vaccinations are highly encouraged. Students, faculty and staff will be asked to check-in/self-screen daily using the DrOwl APP, and vaccinations will be offered on campus for students, faculty and staff on August 16, 2021.

Rust College will offer some online courses during the 2021-22 academic school year. Online courses will only be offered in the eight-week modular format. No online courses are offered in the sixteen-week semester format.

### **About Rust College**

Rust College is a historically, Black, co-educational, senior liberal arts college founded in 1866 by the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church to offer quality programs in business, education, humanities, science and math, and social science to prepare students for leadership and service in the global society.

Located in Holly Springs, MS, Rust College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the associate and baccalaureate degrees.

For more information about Rust College, call (662) 252-8000, ext. 4915 or visit [www.rustcollege.edu](http://www.rustcollege.edu).

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