



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

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KANSAS CITY, MO 64106

REGION VII
ARKANSAS
KANSAS
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NEBRASKA
OKLAHOMA
SOUTH DAKOTA

January 24, 2023

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY

Laura Morgan
Program Manager, Do No Harm

Re: University of Missouri School of Medicine
OCR Case Number: 07222138

Dear Ms. Morgan:

On August 1, 2022, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) received your complaint against the University of Missouri School of Medicine, Columbia, MO, alleging discrimination based on race or color and national origin. Specifically, your complaint alleges the University funds ten unique scholarships that preference students of certain races and ethnicities.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, prohibit discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the Department of Education. As a recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education, the University is subject to Title VI, and to OCR's jurisdiction. Additional information about the laws OCR enforces is available on our website at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>.

OCR will investigate whether the University discriminates against students based on race, color, or national origin in connection with the following scholarships:

1. The Guy Eastman Brown II & Ellen Tarshis Brown Scholarship Fund
2. The Marvin W. & Lilith E. Valle Scholarship Fund
3. Medical School Minority Scholarship
4. Richard A. Holmes, M.D. Minority Medical Students Scholarship Fund
5. Lillie Graham Medical Scholarship Endowment Fund
6. Medical Minority Scholarship
7. Thomas J. and Sharlyn Cooper Minority Medical Student Scholarship Fund
8. Dr. Judy Wells Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund
9. Minority Medical Student Scholarship Fund
10. Nouri Sandoval Scholarship Endowment

Opening the complaint for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination on the merits of the complaint. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral factfinder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the Complainant, the University, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and is dispositive of the allegation(s) in accordance with the provisions of Article III of OCR's *Case Processing Manual*, available at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr/docs/ocrcpm.pdf>.

Our goal is the prompt resolution of the complaint. Information on OCR's complaint processing procedures is available at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr/complaints-how.html>. Please note the section on resolution of a complaint prior to the conclusion of an investigation. If the recipient expresses an interest in resolving the complaint and OCR determines that resolution of the complaint prior to the completion of the investigation is appropriate, OCR may attempt to negotiate an agreement with the recipient pursuant to Case Processing Manual Section 302. Additionally, OCR offers, when appropriate, mediation to facilitate the voluntary resolution of complaints by the parties.

Please be advised that the University may not harass, coerce, intimidate, discriminate, or otherwise retaliate against an individual because that individual asserts a right or privilege under a law enforced by OCR or files a complaint, testifies, or participates in an OCR proceeding. Complaints alleging such retaliation may be filed with OCR.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. If OCR receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if released.

Sincerely,



J. Earlene Gordon
Supervisory Attorney