



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

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REGION V
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
IOWA
MINNESOTA
NORTH DAKOTA
WISCONSIN

April 6, 2023

Dr. Mark J. Perry



Transmitted by email only to: 

OCR Docket #05-23-2178

Dear Dr. Perry:

The U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), has carefully evaluated the above-referenced complaint you filed with OCR, which OCR received on March 6, 2023. Your complaint alleges the University discriminates against males by offering the Dr. Anne Joseph Women's Early Research Career Award (WERC) exclusively to women.

OCR enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 - 1688, and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity operated by a recipient of Federal financial assistance. As a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Department, the University is subject to Title IX.

OCR has determined that it will investigate the complaint. Please understand that opening an investigation does not mean that OCR has made a decision about the complaint. During the investigation, OCR is neutral; OCR will collect and analyze the evidence it needs in order to make a decision about the complaint.

When appropriate, a complaint may be resolved when, prior to the point when OCR completes its investigation, the recipient expresses an interest in resolving the complaint. In such cases, a resolution agreement signed by the recipient and submitted to OCR must address all of the allegations that OCR determines are appropriate to resolve before the conclusion of an investigation. Information about this is in the enclosure to this letter.

OCR would like to make you aware that individuals who file complaints with OCR may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

It is important for you to understand that the laws OCR enforces also prohibit the University from harassing, coercing, intimidating, or discriminating against you because you filed a complaint or participated in the complaint resolution process. OCR did not inform the University

of your identity. However, if this happens, you may file another complaint against the University 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, we will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information, which, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

If you have any questions, you may contact

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Melissa Katt
Supervisory Attorney

Enclosure