



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

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KANSAS CITY, MO 64106

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May 16, 2023

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY

Laura Morgan
Program Manager, Do No Harm

Re: Washington University in St. Louis
OCR Complaint No. 07232078

Dear Ms. Morgan:

On February 6, 2023, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received your complaint against Washington University in St. Louis (the University), located in St. Louis, Missouri, alleging discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. Specifically, your complaint alleges the University's Institute for Public Health operates, promotes, and/or funds the Summer Research Diversity Program in Cardiovascular Disease and Hematology (RADIANCE), which is, in part, limited to students underrepresented in medicine, including students who are Black, African American, Hispanic, Latino, American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander.

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 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 Summer Research Diversity Program in Cardiovascular Disease and Hematology, in violation of Title VI and/or 34 C.F.R. § 100.3.

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 you, the University, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and fully responds to the allegations in accordance with the provisions of the *Case Processing Manual*. A complainant, such as yourself, may have the right to file a private suit in federal court regardless of whether OCR finds a violation.

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

www.ed.gov

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.

If you have any questions, please contact Thomas Jones, Attorney, at [REDACTED] (voice) or [REDACTED] (telecommunications device for the deaf), or by email at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Carr", written in a cursive style.

Benjamin Carr
Acting Supervisory Attorney