June 17, 2020

Mark Perry
By email: mjperry@umflint.edu

Re: Complaint No. 01-20-2038
Wentworth Institute of Technology

Dear Mark Perry:

The U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) previously notified you that we opened an investigation into the above-referenced complaint filed against Wentworth Institute of Technology (University). The Complainant alleges that the University discriminated against male students in middle school and high school on the basis of sex. Specifically, the complaint alleges that the University discriminated against male students, on the basis of sex, by excluding them from participation in the Girls STEM Summit-Statewide 2020 (open to female students in grades 8 to 12) (Event). As explained below, OCR is dismissing the complaint.

OCR enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. (Title IX) and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the Department. Because the University receives federal financial assistance from the Department, OCR has jurisdiction over it pursuant to Title IX.

Section 108(j) of OCR’s Case Processing Manual (CPM) states that OCR will dismiss a complaint if we obtain credible information indicating that the allegations are currently resolved and are therefore no longer appropriate for investigation. OCR contacted the University regarding this complaint on March 11, 2020 pursuant to Section 110 of the CPM. The University acknowledged that it once served as the site for the event in 2019, which was hosted for high school students by Jr. Tech, a nonprofit organization. The University also provided documentation that it cancelled the Event this year, which was originally scheduled for April 5, 2020. Additionally, the University provided its correspondence with the nonprofit host confirming that it cannot serve as the host site. Finally, OCR confirmed that the University’s website has no language indicating an intent to re-schedule or offer the event again. OCR also confirmed that the website of the nonprofit organization hosting the Event indicates that the Event would be virtual in 2020, and does not reference the University.

Accordingly, OCR is dismissing the complaint because it has been resolved and is therefore no longer appropriate for investigation.

1 https://wit.edu/calendar
2 https://juniortech.org/2020-girls-stem-summit-statewide/
For the reasons explained above, OCR is dismissing this complaint as of the date of this letter and will take no further action on the complaint.

This letter is not a formal statement of OCR policy and should not be relied upon, cited, or construed as such. OCR’s formal policy statements are approved by a duly authorized OCR official and made available to the public. The complainant may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

Please be advised that the University must 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, assists, or participates in a proceeding under a law enforced by OCR. If this happens, the individual may file a retaliation complaint 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 personally identifiable information that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if released, to the extent provided by law.

Sincerely,

Meighan A.F. McCrea
Compliance Team Leader