



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

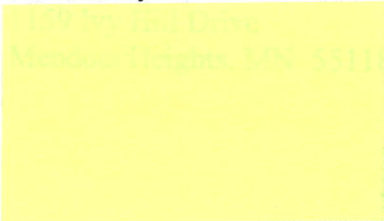
400 MARYLAND AVENUE, SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20202-1475

REGION XI
NORTH CAROLINA
SOUTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA
WASHINGTON, DC

August 14, 2019

Via email to mjperry@umich.edu

Mark Perry



Re: OCR Complaint No. 11-19-2081
Dismissal Letter

Dear Dr. Perry:

On January 24, 2019, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) received the above-referenced complaint that you filed against Clemson University (the University). The complaint alleged that the University discriminates against boys on the basis of sex. Specifically, the complaint alleged that the University sponsors, promotes, organizes, operates, and hosts the following three single-sex programs or initiatives for elementary and/or secondary school students for girls only, thereby excluding boys from such programs or initiatives:

1. Project WISE Summer Camp;
2. STEM Connections; and
3. WISE Choice.

In a letter dated May 7, 2019, OCR notified you that we had opened the complaint for investigation.

OCR enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (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.

Under Section 110 of OCR's *Case Processing Manual* (CPM), a complaint may be resolved through OCR's Rapid Resolution Process where a recipient is interested in immediately resolving, or has taken action to resolve, the complaint allegations. OCR notes that prior to receiving notice of the OCR complaint, the University had already begun to take steps to ensure that the three identified programs/initiatives were open to students regardless of their sex, such that girls and boys could participate. Following discussions with OCR staff, the University expressed an interest in taking actions to immediately resolve the complaint. The University agreed to, and has since

taken, additional steps to further clarify that the three programs/initiatives are available to students regardless of their sex.

Specifically, with respect to the Project WISE Summer Camp program, the University has revised references on its website to make explicit that Project WISE Summer Camp “is available to all qualifying students regardless of their gender or gender identity.”¹ Regarding STEM Connections, the University has removed language from its website that was suggestive of a limitation based on sex and has revised the language to make clear that the program/initiative is open to all students, regardless of sex. Lastly, the University has merged WISE Choice, a program formerly for female high school juniors and seniors that allowed them to visit the University campus for one day to explore majors in engineering and science, with another program that was open to male students. The newly created program, Sneak Preview², is open to “top performing students interested in the STEM fields from around the state” regardless of sex. OCR’s review of the University’s website confirms that the changes have been incorporated into the current online promotion and participation materials related to each of the programs/initiatives.

Based on the foregoing, under Section 110(a) of OCR’s CPM, the University has already taken actions to resolve the complaint, and OCR has reviewed the actions to verify compliance. Therefore, OCR is dismissing the complaint pursuant to Section 108(j) of the CPM, because OCR considers the complaint to be currently resolved and no longer appropriate for investigation.

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 sets forth OCR’s determination in an individual OCR case. 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. You 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.

¹ In addition, the University informed OCR that the “WISE” in the Project WISE Summer Camp program was previously an acronym for “Women in Science and Engineering.” The University retained the name but clarified that “WISE” no longer served as an acronym for the aforementioned phrase.

² The newly created Sneak Preview program serves to replace the two previously existing programs.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the OCR attorneys assigned to this complaint: Betsy Trice at 202-453-5931 or betsy.trice@ed.gov and Erika Westry at 202-453-7025 or erika.westry@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Letisha Morgan-Cosic', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Letisha Morgan-Cosic
Team Leader, Team II
District of Columbia Office
Office for Civil Rights