



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS**

230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST., 37<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60604

**REGION V**  
ILLINOIS  
INDIANA  
IOWA  
MINNESOTA  
NORTH DAKOTA  
WISCONSIN

November 6, 2023

Ameer Benno

*Sent via email only to: [ameer@legalinsurrection.com](mailto:ameer@legalinsurrection.com)*

OCR Docket #05-23-2269

Dear Mr. Benno:

The U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), has evaluated the above-referenced complaint you filed against the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities (University) alleging discrimination on the basis of race. Your complaint alleges that the University discriminates against white students based on race, color and national origin by excluding them from participating in the University’s Multicultural Summer Research Opportunity Program (Program). For the following reasons, OCR is dismissing the complaint.

OCR enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d-2000d-7, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any program or activity operated by a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Department. As a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Department, the University is subject to Title VI.

Under Section 110(d) of OCR’s *Case Processing Manual* (CPM), OCR may dismiss an allegation when OCR obtains credible information indicating that the allegation has been resolved, and there is no systemic allegation.

On May 24, 2023, the University provided OCR with information that it has removed any racial criteria or preference related to the Program and has revised the publicly available information about the Program to clarify that the Program is open to University sophomore, junior or senior students, regardless of race, color or national origin.<sup>1</sup> OCR reviewed the updated Program website and confirmed that the Program eligibility does not include any race-based criteria. Upon request, you did not identify any individual who was excluded from participation in the Program based on race. Therefore, OCR has determined that the facts underlying the complaint are no longer present and OCR has no evidence the law has been violated. Accordingly, OCR is closing the complaint effective the date of this letter.

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<sup>1</sup> Information about the Program is available at <https://ugresearch.umn.edu/opportunities/msrop>. (Last accessed November 6, 2023.)

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 a right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

Please be advised that the University may not harass, coerce, intimidate, discriminate or otherwise retaliate against any individual because he or she has filed a complaint or participated in the complaint resolution process. If this happens, the individual may file a complaint alleging such treatment.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. In the event that 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 questions about this letter, you may contact Miguel Figueras, Attorney, at 202-987-1346 or [miguel.figueras@ed.gov](mailto:miguel.figueras@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

*Melissa Katt*

Melissa Katt  
Supervisory Attorney