**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

March 13, 2025

Via e-mail only to ███████████████████

William A. Jacobson
President
Legal Insurrection Foundation
Equal Protection Project

RE:     Ithaca College – Case Number 02-24-2458

Dear Mr. Jacobson:

On June 24, 2024, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received the complaint you filed alleging that the Ithaca College (the College) discriminates against students on the basis of race and/or color in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d *et seq.*, by offering the following scholarships (collectively, "the Scholarships"), which are limited to students on the basis of their race and/or color:

1. Rashad G. Richardson "I Can Achieve" Memorial Scholarship; and
2. The African-Latino Society Memorial Scholarship.

OCR enforces Title VI and its implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the bases of race, color, and national origin in any program or activity operated by a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Department. Discrimination on the bases of race, color, and national origin will not be tolerated. Because the University receives federal financial assistance from the Department, the University must comply with Title VI and its implementing regulations.

OCR evaluated this complaint in accordance with OCR's Case Processing Manual (CPM) (Feb. 19, 2025) to determine whether to open the complaint for investigation. OCR has completed its evaluation of the complaint and has determined that it will open the complaint for investigation.

OCR will investigate the following legal issue: whether the College discriminates against students on the basis of race and/or color in violation of Title VI and its regulations by restricting access to the Scholarships based on race and/or color.

During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing the evidence it needs to make a decision about the complaint. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient in accordance with its CPM. 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. OCR's opening

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

of this investigation is not itself evidence of a violation of federal civil rights laws and regulations.

OCR may close this complaint prior to making formal findings of compliance or non-compliance, provided that the circumstances or information gathered establish an administrative or other basis for resolution in accordance with the CPM. For example, Section 110 of OCR's CPM provides that OCR may use an expedited case processing approach to resolve complaints called the Rapid Resolution Process (RRP). The outcomes in all RRP cases must meet OCR's standards for legal sufficiency and be consistent with applicable statutory and regulatory authority. Any resolution agreement reached through RRP must be aligned with the allegations in the complaint deemed appropriate for resolution pursuant to RRP.

Please be advised that the College 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 (FOIA), 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 that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if released.

If you have any questions, please contact me at █████████████ .

Sincerely,

/s/

████████

Program Manager
District of Columbia Office
Office for Civil Rights