



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

REGION IX  
CALIFORNIA

50 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA  
MAIL BOX 1200, ROOM 1545  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

January 15, 2025

**Via email only to: [contact@legalinsurrection.com](mailto:contact@legalinsurrection.com)**

William A. Jacobson, President  
Legal Insurrection Foundation

Re: California State University, Chancellors Office - Case Number 09-25-2108;  
California State University, Bakersfield - Case Number 09-25-2109;  
California State University, Dominguez Hills - Case Number 09-25-2110;  
California State University, Long Beach - Case Number 09-25-2111;  
California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt - Case Number 09-25-2112;  
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona - Case Number 09-25-2113;  
California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo - Case Number 09-25-2114;  
California State University, Stanislaus - Case Number 09-25-2115

Dear William A. Jacobson:

On November 19, 2024, the U.S. Department of Education (the Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received your complaint against the Chancellor's Office and the universities identified above (the Universities). In your complaint, you allege that California State University (CSU) discriminates based on race and sex by operating a Young Males of Color Consortium (the Consortium) which is housed at CSU Dominguez Hills, and that operates "Men of Color" programs at 23 campuses in the CSU system including the campuses listed above that you identified in your complaint.

OCR enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688, and its implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity operated by a recipient of federal financial assistance. OCR also enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d-2000d-7, and its implementing regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. As recipients of federal financial assistance from the Department, the CSU Chancellor's Office and the Universities are subject to Title IX and Title VI.

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

Based on information you provided in your complaint, information the University provided to OCR through its Rapid Resolution Process (RRP) under Section 203 of OCR's [Case Processing Manual \(CPM\) \(July 18, 2022\)](#), and publicly available information online, OCR is dismissing your complaint, as explained below.

Under subsection 110(d) of OCR's [Case Processing Manual \(CPM\) \(July 18, 2022\)](#), OCR will dismiss a complaint when OCR obtains credible information indicating that the allegations have been resolved, the facts underlying the allegation are no longer present, and OCR has no evidence the law is violated.

### **CSU Consortium**

At the time you filed your complaint, the Consortium webpage included language that indicated that it only served certain students based on race, color, national origin, and sex. Specifically, at the time you filed your complaint, the webpage describing the overview of the Consortium stated that its goal is to improve outcomes for “Black, Latinx, Asian Pacific Islander and Native American males.” The overview also stated that the “23-campus Consortium was established to explore the unique challenges young men of color face during their postsecondary experiences, as well as advance effective approaches to better support them.” As you describe in your complaint, the Program’s website also stated that the Program was necessary due to several reasons including: “national averages” of postsecondary degree attainment showing that Black, Latinx, Asian Pacific Islander and Native American males “lag behind” those national averages, “racial inequities in educational contexts” as early as pre-kindergarten, a “scarcity of investments in opportunities for young men of color,” and competition amongst entities for funding and to “attract young men” to their programs.

Since you filed your complaint, OCR has confirmed that the Consortium now provides training and skills development to professionals who work directly with students with the goal of increasing their ability to support “young men of color,” while recognizing that the skills will be helpful to benefit any student regardless of race, color, national origin and sex. Any professional, regardless of race, color, national origin, and sex can participate in and receive the benefits of the Consortium. In this regard, the CSU has updated its website at <https://csuymoc.org>. The overview of the Consortium now states that its aim is to “enhance alignment, communication, and a shared measurement system between the CSU and targeted community colleges.” While the overview states that the Consortium builds capacity and training for educators with the aim of better supporting “young men of color,” it clarifies that it does not directly serve students on the CSU campuses and instead imparts skills to professionals who work with students which, according to the overview, will “allow professionals to work with all students, regardless of sex, race, color, or national origin.”

The CSU system has worked with its universities, including the seven Universities identified in your complaint, to ensure that their respective programs that are part of the Consortium are also open to any student regardless of race, color, national origin, and sex. Below are descriptions of each of the specific programs you identified in your complaint, and the changes made by the Universities to address the allegations you raised.

### **CSU Bakersfield - Excel Scholars Program**

At the time you filed your complaint, the CSU Bakersfield campus described its Excel Scholars Program as one that “works to support the educational goals of males of color” and that “aims to increase the access, retention, and graduation rates of underrepresented minority (URM) males.” Since you filed your complaint, the University made changes to the program’s webpage to clarify that it is open to any student regardless of sex or any other protected status. While the Excel Scholars program continues to have a goal of increasing access, retention, and graduation rates of “underrepresented minority (URM) males,” the Program now clarifies on the Excel Scholars webpage at [About Excel Scholars | California State University, Bakersfield](#) that “[a]ll eligible students are encouraged to apply and participate. Excel Scholars does not consider sex, gender or any other protected status as part of the application and selection process.”

### **CSU Dominguez Hills - Male Success Alliance**

At the time you filed your complaint, the CSU Dominguez Hills Male Success Alliance described its mission as “to improve access, retention, and graduate rates of boys and men of color by providing academic support, professional development, and mentoring. The program aims to support the college and career success of boys and men of color by utilizing a holistic approach to promote brotherhood and community through cultural awareness and identity development.” Since you filed your complaint, the University made changes to the program’s website to clarify that it is open to all students. While the mission of the Male Success Alliance continues to be to improve access, retention and graduation rates of “young men of color” at the University, the webpage for the program at [Male Success Alliance](#) now states that the program “is open to anyone regardless of race, color, and national origin, and also sex.”

### **CSU Long Beach - Men’s Success Initiative**

At the time you filed your complaint, the CSU Long Beach Men’s Success Initiative described its focus on the University’s website as “focused on cultivating a Brotherhood of college-graduating and succeeding men of color” and that its three tenets were to empower “men of color” to achieve personal and academic success, challenge “antiquated” perceptions of gender and masculinity, and develop a “thriving community of Brothers by retaining undergraduate men of color.” Since you filed your complaint, the University made changes to the program’s website to clarify that it is open to any student who wishes to participate. While the mission of the program continues to be to retain “undergraduate men of color” at the University, the webpage for the program at [Men's Success Initiative | California State University Long Beach](#) now states that “[a]ll students, regardless of sex, race, color, national origin, and/or any other protected identity, who are interested in the program’s mission and focus are welcome and eligible to participate.”

### **Cal Poly Humboldt - Diverse Male Scholar Initiative**

At the time you filed your complaint, the University described the Cal Poly Humboldt Diverse Male Scholar Initiative which was located at both Cal Poly Humboldt and the College of the Redwoods as one “designed to cultivate a safe community for students who self-identify as men

of color.” The description also states that the program provides “culturally centered programs strengthened with academic achievement, holistic development, community building, and leadership opportunities.” Since you filed your complaint, the University made changes to the program’s website. The program description on the University’s website at [Diverse Male Scholar Initiative | Cal Poly Humboldt](#) now states that the program works with students to develop programs and workshops throughout the year. While it says that those programs and workshops are to promote belonging and an understanding of what it means to “navigate life as self-identified men of color,” it now also states that “[a]ll students, regardless of sex, race, color, or national origin, who are interested in the program’s mission and focus are welcome.”

### **Cal Poly Pomona - Male Success Initiative**

At the time you filed your complaint, the University described the Cal Poly Pomona Male Success Initiative on its website as one that “stands with men of color” and that the initiative sought to close the “gaps of retention and graduation rates among men of color” at the University by implementing “holistic and culturally relevant programming,” support networks, and services. Since you filed your complaint, the University made changes to its webpage to clarify that any student regardless of race, color, national origin, or sex can participate. While the program continues to have the goal of closing the gaps of retention and graduation rates for “men of color,” the program’s webpage at [Male Success Initiatives](#) now also states that it “welcomes any person who uplifts our institutional values and principles of community regardless of how they identify.” It also states that the program is a “space for people of all backgrounds to explore, learn, connect, and build coalition.”

### **Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Men of Color Success Initiative**

At the time you filed your complaint, the University described the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Men of Color Success Initiative as one that “supports and advances the potential of undergraduate men of color” by providing skills, community, and knowledge “to foster success.” It further stated that the Men of Color Success Initiative focused on increasing retention and graduation rates for men of color; engage in “identity exploration” and holistic development through “cultural affirmation and ‘brave space’ communities,” mentor support networks, and “strengthening the sense of community among all students who self-identify as men of color (African American, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian-American/Pacific Islander, American Indian, and multiracial men [...])” Since you filed your complaint, the University made changes to its webpage to clarify that any student is welcome to participate. While the initiative continues to have a focus of increasing retention and graduation rates for “men of color,” the webpage at [Men of Color Success Initiatives - Men & Masculinities - Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo](#) now states that “[a]ll students, regardless of” race, color, national origin, and gender “who are interested in the program’s mission and focus are welcome to participate.”

### **CSU Stanislaus - Male Success Initiative**

At the time you filed your complaint, the University described the Male Success Initiative on its website as one that fosters student success by “nurturing spaces where men of color and self-identified men feel safe to be purposefully vulnerable, live in their authentic truths, and be

empowered to be agents of social change.” The website description stated that the program would provide “intentional programs, meaningful dialogues, & community building” for the participants. Since you filed your complaint, the University made changes to its webpage to clarify that any student may participate in the program. Specifically, the program’s webpage at [Male Success Initiative | California State University Stanislaus](#) now states that it is “open to all individuals, regardless of sex, race, color, or national origin [...]”

## Conclusion

OCR confirmed that, since you filed your complaint, the University made changes to the Consortium and its programs/initiatives such that they are open to any student regardless of race, color, national origin, and sex. Because OCR has obtained credible information indicating that allegations are resolved, the facts underlying the allegations are no longer present, and OCR has no evidence the law is violated, OCR is dismissing the complaint in accordance with subsection 110(d) of the CPM.

This concludes OCR’s consideration of your complaint regarding the Chancellor’s office and Universities identified in this letter in OCR case numbers 09-25-2108 through 09-25-2115.

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.

OCR would like to make you aware that 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.

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 against the University 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, OCR 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 about this letter, please call our office at 415-486-5404 or me at [Anamaria.Loya@ed.gov](mailto:Anamaria.Loya@ed.gov).

Sincerely,



Anamaria Loya  
Chief Regional Attorney