



**THE EQUAL PROTECTION PROJECT**  
**A Project of the Legal Insurrection Foundation**  
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[www.EqualProtect.org](http://www.EqualProtect.org)

April 1, 2025

**BY EMAIL** (OCR@ed.gov)

Craig Trainor, Acting Assistant Secretary,  
Office for Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

**BY EMAIL** (OCR.Philadelphia@ed.gov)

U. S. Department of Education  
Office for Civil Rights – Philadelphia Office  
The Wanamaker Building  
100 Penn Square East, Suite 515  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3323

**Re: Civil Rights Complaint Against Pennsylvania College of Technology**

Dear Mr. Trainor and OCR Staff:

This is a federal civil rights complaint pursuant to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR") discrimination complaint resolution procedures.<sup>1</sup> We write on behalf of the Equal Protection Project of the Legal Insurrection Foundation, a non-profit that, among other things, seeks to ensure equal protection under the law and non-discrimination by the government, and that opposes racial discrimination in any form.

We bring this civil rights complaint against Pennsylvania College of Technology ("Penn Tech"), a self-governing affiliate of Pennsylvania State University, for offering, administering, and promoting twelve (12) scholarships that discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, and/or sex in violation of Title VI and Title IX, respectively. These scholarships are

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<sup>1</sup> See 42 U.S.C. § 2000d-1; 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.7, 100.8, and 100.9.

listed, promoted, and administered through the Penn Tech Financial Aid department.<sup>2</sup> Students submit one application annually and Penn Tech matches them with “...as many awards as possible.”

## Ready to put your name in the running for 350+ unique scholarships?

Just submit one annual Penn College Scholarship Application and we'll match you with as many awards as possible. These scholarship opportunities are made possible by the generosity of corporate partners, donors, alumni, and friends.

SUBMIT YOUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The scholarships listed below are currently offered to Penn Tech students and applicants for admission, according to the Penn Tech website, and violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title VI”) and its implementing regulations<sup>3</sup> by excluding students based on their race, color, or national origin, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”) and its implementing regulations<sup>4</sup> by excluding students based on their sex, or both. Because Penn Tech is a public university, these discriminatory scholarships also violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Each of the scholarships listed below are for the 2025-2026 school year. Applications are accepted from December 1, 2024, through October 1, 2025, with awards beginning on April 1, 2025. There is only one application for all listed scholarships. So long as students complete the scholarships application and meet the requirements, they are considered.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pct.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/penn-college-scholarships> [<https://archive.is/wip/a8xYO>] (accessed on March 31, 2025).

<sup>3</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.; 28 C.F.R. Part 100.

<sup>4</sup> 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.pct.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/penn-college-scholarships> [<https://archive.is/wip/a8xYO>] (accessed on March 31, 2025).

## I. SCHOLARSHIPS THAT VIOLATE TITLE VI (1)

### Start to Finish Minority Student Scholarship

Link: <https://www.pct.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/penn-college-scholarships/start-to-finish-minority-student>

Archived Link: <https://archive.ph/wip/06kk4>

Discriminatory Requirement: “Are a racial or ethnic minority”

[← PENN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

## Start to Finish Minority Student Scholarship

*Awarded by Ms. Allison A. Grove*

### Requirements

- Enrolled in any major
- Have a least one semester remaining before graduation.
- Are a racial or ethnic minority
- Are a permanent resident of the United States
- Have a clear judicial/conduct record.
- Enrolled full-time
- Be a second-year, third-year, or fourth-year student

[PENN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION](#)

### Required GPA

- 2.5

## II. SCHOLARSHIPS THAT VIOLATE BOTH TITLE VI AND TITLE IX (3)

### Cahir Family Renaissance Scholarships

Link: <https://www.pct.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/penn-college-scholarships/cahir-family-renaissance>

Archived Link: <https://archive.ph/wip/i7Xlu>

Discriminatory Requirement: “Have been previously marginalized by racial, ethnic, socio-economic, gender, or other adversities”

## Cahir Family Renaissance Scholarship

*Awarded by Dr. John J. Cahir and Mrs. Mary Anne L. Cahir*

### Requirements

- Enrolled in any major
- Have been previously marginalized by racial, ethnic, socio-economic, gender, or other adversities
- Enrolled full-time
- Be a second-year student

### Required GPA

- 2.5

### Renewable

- Up to 4 years

### **Keith S. Kuzio Larson Design Group Scholarship**

Link: <https://www.pct.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/penn-college-scholarships/keith-s-kuzio-larson-design-group>

Archived Link: <https://archive.is/wip/UHxdy>

Discriminatory Requirement: “Are a minority and/or female student”

## **Keith S. Kuzio Larson Design Group Scholarship**

### **Requirements**

- Enrolled in one of the following majors:
  - Architecture & Sustainable Design (BS)
  - Architecture (AAS)
  - Building Automation Engineering Technology (BS)
  - Civil Engineering Technology (AAS)
  - Civil Engineering Technology (BS)
  - Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Engineering Technology (BS)
  - Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Technology (AAS)
  - Surveying Technology (AAS)
- Are a minority and/or female student
- Enrolled full-time

### **Required GPA**

- 3.0

### **Renewable**

- Up to 4 years

### **Kuzio Family Internship Fund**

Link: <https://www.pct.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/penn-college-scholarships/kuzio-family-internship-fund/kuzio>

Archived Link: <https://archive.ph/dZA9s>

Discriminatory Requirement: “Preference to women and minority students”

## **Kuzio Family Internship Fund**

*Awarded by Keith and Jennifer Kuzio*

### **Requirements**

- Enrolled in any major
- Preference to women and minority students
- Students who have a documented offer for an internship experience
- Have applied for Internship Funds through the Center for Career Design
- Enrolled full-time

### **Required GPA**

- 2.5

PENN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

### III. **SCHOLARSHIPS THAT VIOLATE TITLE IX (8)**

#### **Carolyn G. Martin Memorial Scholarship**

Link: <https://www.pct.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/penn-college-scholarships/carolyn-g-martin-memorial>

Archived Link: <https://archive.is/wip/a4lGJ>

Discriminatory Requirement: “Female enrolled in Sport and Event Management Concentration - primary preference”

## Carolyn G. Martin Memorial Scholarship

*Awarded by Dr. William J. Martin*

### Requirements

- Enrolled in any major
- Female enrolled in Sport and Event Management Concentration - primary preference
- Enrolled full-time
- Be a second-year student

PENN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

### Required GPA

- 3.0

### Awarded

- Fall semester

### Renewable

- Up to 4 years

#### **Dorothy Gerring and William Geyer Architecture Scholarship**

Link: <https://www.pct.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/penn-college-scholarships/dorothy-gerring-and-william-geyer>

Archived Link: <https://archive.is/wip/AMAVz>

Discriminatory Requirement: “Female student”

← PENN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

## Dorothy Gerring and William Geyer Architecture Scholarship

Awarded by Mr. William Geyer and Ms. Dorothy Gerring

### Requirements

- Enrolled in one of the following majors:
  - Architecture & Sustainable Design (BS)
  - Architecture (AAS)
- Female student
- Enrolled full-time

PENN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

### Required GPA

- 3.0

### Residence/Graduation Requirements

- Resident of PA - Bradford County
- Resident of PA - Clinton County
- Resident of PA - Columbia County
- Resident of PA - Lycoming County

### Flynn Math Scholarship

Link: <https://www.pct.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/penn-college-scholarships/flynn-math-scholarship/flynn-math>

Archived Link: <https://archive.ph/wip/2Wsei>

Discriminatory Requirement: “Primary Preference: Are a female enrolled as a full-time student with a minor in Math.”

← FLYNN MATH SCHOLARSHIP

## Flynn Math Scholarship

Awarded by Mr. Brian and Mrs. Joanna Flynn

### Requirements

- Enrolled in any major
- Available to any major with a minor in Math
- Primary Preference: Are a female enrolled as a full-time student with a minor in Math.
- This scholarship will be renewable for students maintaining a 3.0 GPA or higher.
- Enrolled full-time

PENN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

### Required GPA

- 3.0

### Awarded

- Fall semester

### Renewable

- Up to 4 years

### James L. Throne SPE Rotational Molding Division Scholarship

Link: <https://www.pct.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/penn-college-scholarships/james-l-throne-spe-rotational>

Archived Link: <https://archive.is/wip/qVFuf>

Discriminatory Requirement: “Female student”

← PENN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

## James L. Throne SPE Rotational Molding Division Scholarship

### Requirements

- Enrolled in one of the following majors:
  - Polymer Engineering Technology (BS)
  - Polymer Technology (AAS)
- Female student
- Be a second-year, third-year, or fourth-year student

PENN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

### Required GPA

- 3.0

### Awarded

- Fall semester

### Kathleen Reidy Thomas Memorial Scholarship

Link: <https://www.pct.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/penn-college-scholarships/kathleen-reidy-thomas-memorial>

Archived Link: <https://archive.ph/wip/3ORYg>

Discriminatory Requirement: “Must be a female student that is age 24 or older”

← PENN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

## Kathleen Reidy Thomas Memorial Scholarship

*Awarded by Mr. Robert G. Thomas*

### Requirements

- Enrolled in any major
- Must be a female student that is age 24 or older
- Have been a recipient of a scholarship from the Fund in prior years
- Complete Essay "Career Goals Essay"
- Enrolled full-time or part-time
- Be a first-year student

PENN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

### Required GPA

- 2.5

### Awarded

- Fall semester

### Renewable

- Up to 6 years

### Lester Family Scholarship

Link: <https://www.pct.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/penn-college-scholarships/lester-family-scholarship/lester>

Archived Link: <https://archive.ph/wip/OjqBu>

Discriminatory Requirement: “Are a female student”

← LESTER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

## Lester Family Scholarship

Awarded by Ms. Ellyn Lester

### Requirements

- Enrolled in one of the following majors:
  - Architecture & Sustainable Design (BS)
  - Architecture (AAS)
  - Concrete Science Technology (AAS)
  - Construction Management (BS)
  - Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Engineering Technology (BS)
  - Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Technology (AAS)
- Are a female student
- Are an out-of-state resident or international student
- Enrolled full-time

PENN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

### Required GPA

- 2.5

### Awarded

- Fall semester

### Desired

- Secondary preference given to out-of-state or international female students in Civil Engineering, or Electrical Construction

### Renewable

- Up to 4 years

### Patsy and Glenn L. Beall Chicago S.P.E. Scholarship

Link: <https://www.pct.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/penn-college-scholarships/patsy-and-glenn-l-beall-chicago-spe>

Archived Link: <https://archive.ph/wip/65kNY>

Discriminatory Requirement: “Preference to female students”

← PENN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

## Patsy and Glenn L. Beall Chicago S.P.E. Scholarship

Awarded by S.P.E. Chicago Section and Chicago S.P.E. Educational Foundation

### Requirements

- Enrolled in one of the following majors:
  - Polymer Engineering Technology (BS)
  - Polymer Technology (AAS)
- Preference to residents of the State of Illinois
- Preference to female students
- Be a second-year, third-year, or fourth-year student

PENN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

### Required GPA

- 3.0

### Renewable

- Up to 3 years

### Savoy Health Sciences Scholarship

Link: <https://www.pct.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/penn-college-scholarships/savoy-health-sciences-scholarship>

Archived Link: <https://archive.ph/wip/w9R5j>

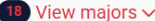
Discriminatory Requirement: “Must be a female student that is age 23 or older”

← PENN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

## Savoy Health Sciences Scholarship

Awarded by Mrs. Carol Savoy

### Requirements

- Enrolled in one of the following majors:  

- Must be a female student that is age 23 or older
- Enrolled full-time
- Be a first-year student

PENN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

### Required GPA

- 2.5

### Awarded

- Fall semester

### Renewable

- Up to 4 years

### The Scholarships Listed Above Violate The Law

The scholarships identified above violate either Title VI, by discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin; Title IX, by discriminating on the basis of sex; or both.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, because Penn Tech is a public university, such discrimination also violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Title VI prohibits intentional discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any “program or activity” that receives federal financial assistance. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 2000d. The term “program or activity” encompasses “all of the operations ... of a college, university, or other postsecondary institution, or a public system of higher education.” *See* 42 U.S.C. § 2000d-4a(2)(A). As noted in *Rowles v. Curators of the University of Missouri*, 983 F.3d 345, 355 (8th Cir. 2020), “Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race in federally funded programs,” and therefore applies to universities receiving federal financial assistance. Because Penn Tech receives and administers federal funds through numerous programs and is a public institution, it is subject to Title VI.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Although OCR does not enforce Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that statute makes it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of race or color in a place of “public accommodation,” such as Penn Tech. 42 U.S.C. § 2000(a)(a). These scholarships also violate the Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, or disability. Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act, Act of July 17, 1961, P.L. 776, No. 341 (2025). Finally, these scholarships violate Penn Tech’s own nondiscrimination policy. *See* <https://www.pct.edu/students/student-affairs/student-policy/nondiscrimination-statement-and-grievance-procedure>

[<https://archive.ph/wip/E1tin>] (accessed on March 31, 2025).

<sup>7</sup> *See* [https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST\\_NON\\_P063P242171\\_9100](https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_P063P242171_9100) [<https://archive.ph/wip/4TZPT>] (accessed on March 31, 2025).

Regardless of Penn Tech’s reasons for offering, promoting, and administering such discriminatory scholarships, they are violating Title VI by doing so. It does not matter if the recipient of federal funding discriminates in order to advance a benign “intention” or “motivation.” *Bostock v. Clayton Cnty.*, 590 U.S. 644, 661 (2020) (“Intentionally burning down a neighbor’s house is arson, even if the perpetrator’s ultimate intention (or motivation) is only to improve the view.”); *accord Automobile Workers v. Johnson Controls, Inc.*, 499 U.S. 187, 199 (1991) (“the absence of a malevolent motive does not convert a facially discriminatory policy into a neutral policy with a discriminatory effect” or “alter [its] intentionally discriminatory character”). “Nor does it matter if the recipient discriminates against an individual member of a protected class with the idea that doing so might favor the interests of that class as a whole or otherwise promote equality at the group level.” *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President & Fellows of Harvard Coll.*, 600 U.S. 181, 289 (2023) (Gorsuch, J., concurring).

As Penn Tech is a public university, its offering, promoting, and administering these discriminatory scholarships also violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. In *Students for Fair Admissions*, the Supreme Court declared that “[e]liminating racial discrimination means eliminating all of it .... The guarantee of equal protection cannot mean one thing when applied to one individual and something else when applied to a person of another color. If both are not accorded the same protection, then it is not equal.” *Id.* at 206 (cleaned up). “Distinctions between citizens solely because of their ancestry [including race] are by their very nature odious to a free people whose institutions are founded upon the doctrine of equality.” *Id.* at 208. Consequently, “[a]ny exception to the Constitution’s demand for equal protection must survive a daunting two-step examination known ... as strict scrutiny.” *Id.* at 208 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). The scholarships at issue here cannot withstand that exacting standard.

As OCR stated in its February 14, 2025, Civil Rights Guidance Letter<sup>8</sup>:

Although *SFFA* addressed admissions decisions, the Supreme Court’s holding applies more broadly. At its core, the test is simple: If an educational institution treats a person of one race differently than it treats another person because of that person’s race, the educational institution violates the law. Federal law thus prohibits covered entities from using race in decisions pertaining to admissions, hiring, promotion, compensation, financial aid, scholarships, prizes, administrative support, discipline, housing, graduation ceremonies, and all other aspects of student, academic, and campus life. Put simply, educational institutions may neither separate or segregate students based on race, nor distribute benefits or burdens based on race.

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<sup>8</sup> See United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights Letter (2025), <https://www.ed.gov/media/document/dear-colleague-letter-sffa-v-harvard-109506.pdf> [<https://archive.is/R62P1>] (“At its core, the test is simple: If an educational institution treats a person of one race differently than it treats another person because of that person’s race, the educational institution violates the law.”)

Under strict scrutiny, suspect classifications “are constitutional only if they are narrowly tailored measures that further compelling governmental interests.” *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña*, 515 U.S. 200, 227 (1995). It is the government that bears the burden to prove “that the reasons for any [racial] classification [are] clearly identified and unquestionably legitimate.” *Richmond v. J. A. Croson Co.*, 488 U.S. 469, 505 (1989). Here, Penn Tech cannot carry its burden.

A “racial classification, regardless of purported motivation, is presumptively invalid and can be upheld only upon an extraordinary justification.” *Shaw v. Reno*, 509 U.S. 630, 643–44 (1993) (citation omitted). Here, Penn Tech cannot demonstrate that restricting scholarships based on race, color, or national origin serves any legitimate governmental purpose, let alone an extraordinary one. Classifications based on immutable characteristics “are so seldom relevant to the achievement of any legitimate state interest” that government policies “grounded in such considerations are deemed to reflect prejudice and antipathy—a view that those in the burdened class are not as worthy or deserving as others.” *City of Cleburne v. Cleburne Living Ctr.*, 473 U.S. 432, 440 (1985).

The Supreme Court has recognized only two interests compelling enough to justify racial classifications. The first is remedying the effects of past de jure segregation or discrimination in the specific industry and locality at issue, where the government played a role. The second is “avoiding imminent and serious risks to human safety in prisons, such as a race riot.” *Students for Fair Admissions*, 600 U.S. at 207 (citation omitted). Neither applies here.

If the scholarships are intended to achieve racial balance, such an objective has been “repeatedly condemned as illegitimate” and “patently unconstitutional” by the Supreme Court. *Parents Involved in Cmty. Sch. v. Seattle Sch. Dist. No. 1*, 551 U.S. 701, 726, 730 (2007) (“Accepting racial balancing as a compelling state interest would justify the imposition of racial proportionality throughout American society, contrary to our repeated recognition that at the heart of the Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection lies the simple command that the Government must treat citizens as individuals, not as simply components of a racial, religious, sexual, or national class”) (cleaned up, citation omitted).

Further, a policy is not narrowly tailored if it is either overbroad or underinclusive in its use of racial classifications. *J.A. Croson Co.*, 488 U.S. at 506. Indeed, in *Students for Fair Admissions*, the Supreme Court found that similar categories as those used to determine eligibility for Penn Tech’s scholarships were “imprecise,” “plainly overbroad,” “arbitrary,” “undefined” and “opaque,” 600 U.S. at 216–17,<sup>9</sup> and declared that “it is far from evident ... how assigning students to these ... categories and making admissions decisions based on them furthers the educational benefits that the universities claim to pursue.” *Id.* at 216.

For a policy to satisfy narrow tailoring, the government must demonstrate “serious, good faith consideration of workable race-neutral alternatives,” *Grutter v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 306, 339 (2003), and show that “no workable race-neutral alternative” could achieve the purported

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<sup>9</sup> In his concurrence, Justice Thomas criticizes these categories as being “artificial.” *Students for Fair Admissions*, 600 U.S. at 276 (Thomas, J., concurring).

compelling interest. *Fisher v. Univ. of Tex. at Austin*, 570 U.S. 297, 312 (2013). There is no evidence that such alternatives were ever considered here.

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education. The statute provides: “[n]o person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” 20 U.S.C. § 1681(a). Accordingly, a school receiving federal funding may not administer scholarships, fellowships, or other forms of financial assistance that impose preferences or restrictions based on sex, except in limited exceptions that are not applicable here. *See* 34 C.F.R. § 106.37(a).

Restrictions that limit eligibility for scholarships based on sex are underinclusive, as they arbitrarily exclude students who would otherwise qualify. While sex-based classifications are subject to “heightened” scrutiny, *Sessions v. Morales-Santana*, 582 U.S. 47, 57 (2017); *United States v. Virginia*, 518 U.S. 515, 532–34 (1996), this standard—though less exacting than the strict scrutiny applied to race-based classifications—still requires an “exceedingly persuasive justification.” *Virginia*, 518 U.S. at 531. To meet this burden, the government must demonstrate “at least that the [challenged] classification serves important governmental objectives and that the discriminatory means employed are substantially related to the achievement of those objectives.” *Id.* at 533. Even if the classifications based on sex or other immutable characteristics were intended to further a compelling interest, discriminatory programs must involve “individualized consideration” and must apply criteria in a “nonmechanical way.” *Grutter*, 539 U.S. at 334.

Penn Tech’s explicit race- and sex-based scholarships are presumptively invalid, and since there is no compelling government justification for such invidious discrimination, Penn Tech’s offering, promotion, and administration of these programs violates state and federal civil rights statutes and constitutional equal protection guarantees.

### **OCR Has Jurisdiction**

Penn Tech is a public entity and a recipient of federal funds,<sup>10</sup> including from the U.S. Department of Education.<sup>11</sup> It is therefore liable for violating Title VI, Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause, and OCR therefore has jurisdiction over this complaint.

### **The Complaint Is Timely**

This complaint is timely brought because it includes allegations of discrimination based on race, color, national origin and sex that occurred within 180 days and that appear to be

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<sup>10</sup> *See* <https://www.usaspending.gov/recipient/a52ffbb9-954c-a330-deae-13a511bfe9b8-R/latest> [<https://archive.ph/wip/C058q>] (accessed on March 31, 2025).

<sup>11</sup> *See* [https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST\\_NON\\_P063P242171\\_9100](https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_P063P242171_9100) [<https://archive.ph/wip/4TZPT>] (accessed on March 31, 2025).

ongoing. The scholarships are running during the 2025-2026 academic year, and applications are currently active.<sup>12</sup>

### **Request For Investigation And Enforcement**

In *Richmond v. J. A. Croson Co.*, Justice Scalia aptly noted that “discrimination on the basis of race is illegal, immoral, unconstitutional, inherently wrong and destructive of a democratic society.” 488 U.S. at 505 (citation omitted). This is true regardless of which race suffers – discrimination against white applicants is just as unlawful as discrimination against black or other non-white applicants. As Justice Thomas correctly noted in *Students for Fair Admissions*, race-based admissions preferences “fly in the face of our colorblind Constitution and our Nation’s equality ideal” and “are plainly – and boldly – unconstitutional.” 600 U.S. at 287 (Thomas, J., concurring).

Because the discrimination outlined above is presumptively illegal, and since Penn Tech cannot show any compelling government justification for it, the fact that it conditions eligibility for multiple scholarships on race, color, national origin and sex violates federal civil rights statutes and constitutional equal protection guarantees.

The Office for Civil Rights has the power and obligation to investigate Penn Tech’s role in creating, funding, promoting and administering these scholarships – and, given how many there are, to discern whether Penn Tech is engaging in such discrimination in its other activities – and to impose whatever remedial relief is necessary to hold it accountable for that unlawful conduct. This includes, if necessary, imposing fines, initiating administrative proceedings to suspend or terminate federal financial assistance and referring the case to the Department of Justice for judicial proceedings to enforce the rights of the United States under federal law. After all, “[t]he way to stop discrimination ... is to stop discriminating[.]” *Parents Involved in Cmty. Sch.*, 551 U.S. at 748.

Accordingly, we respectfully ask that the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights prioritize and expedite this complaint given the sheer number of discriminatory scholarships at Penn Tech reflecting a systematic disregard for Titles VI and IX, promptly open a formal investigation, impose such remedial relief as the law permits for the benefit of those who have been illegally excluded from Penn Tech’s various scholarships based on discriminatory criteria, and ensure that all ongoing and future scholarships and programming at Penn Tech comports with the Constitution and federal civil rights laws.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.pct.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships> [<https://archive.is/wip/BQFRv>] (accessed March 31, 2025).

U.S. Dept. of Education, Office for Civil Rights  
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Respectfully submitted,

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