UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

November 13, 2026

By email only to: contact@legalinsurrection.com

William Jacobson

Re: Middle Tennessee State University – OCR Complaint Number 04-25-2381

Dear William Jacobson:

On May 8, 2025, the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received your complaint against Middle Tennessee State University (University). Your complaint alleges that the University discriminates on the bases of race, color, and/or national origin by offering and administering the scholarships below (collectively, "Scholarships").

1. Al Wilkerson Endowed Scholarship
2. Cornelia Freeman Cooper Endowed Scholarship
3. Dr. Robert E. Eaker Scholarship
4. Edith Ann Clark Moore Endowed Scholarship
5. Geminii Scholarship in Textiles, Merchandising, and Design
6. James N. Leonard History Scholarship
7. James R. and Betty Y. Scott Scholarship
8. Joshua Edgar Huffman Scholarship
9. Karla Winfrey Broadcast Journalism Scholarship
10. Martin Luther King New MTSU Scholarship
11. Molly Jones Estate
12. Ruther and Will Bowdoin Endowed Scholarship in Early Childhood Education
13. School of Journalism Diversity Annual Scholarship
14. Tiffany and Luther Wright Jr. Annual Scholarship
15. Will Bowdoin Scholarship and Education
16. Whitney Stegall Scholarship
17. Willie Brown Scholarship

OCR enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. Sections 2000d-2000d-7, and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the Department. As a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Department, the University must comply with Title VI and its implementing regulations.

OCR will investigate the following legal issue:

Whether the University discriminates on the basis of race, color, or national origin with respect to the Scholarships, in violation of Title VI.

Please note that opening an investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination with regard to the merits. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral factfinder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the complainant, the recipient, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient as required by Case Processing Manual (CPM) (Feb. 19, 2025). 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 any 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, 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 contact Malicia Hitch at [redacted].

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BENNETT
Digitally signed by MICHAEL BENNETT
Date: 2026.11.13 08:41:10 -05'00'

Michael Bennett
Compliance Team Leader