



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, REGION XV

1350 EUCLID AVENUE, SUITE 325  
CLEVELAND, OH 44115

REGION XV  
MICHIGAN  
OHIO

January 3, 2017

Non Responsive

Re: OCR Docket #15-16-2157

Dear Non Responsive

On May 13, 2016, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) received a complaint you filed against The Ohio State University (the University) on behalf of a client, alleging discrimination on the basis of sex. Specifically, the complaint alleges that the University failed to appropriately respond to notice by your client in Non Responsive of an alleged sexual assault by a University professor at an academic conference.

OCR is responsible for enforcing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (Title IX), which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity operated by a recipient of Federal financial assistance. As a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Department, the University is subject to Title IX.

Because OCR determined that it has jurisdiction and that the complaint was filed timely, it is opening the complaint for investigation. Based on the complaint allegation, we will investigate the following legal issue: whether the University permitted a sexually hostile environment (i.e., sexually harassing conduct by an employee that was sufficiently serious that it denied or limited students' ability to participate in or benefit from the University's program and/or affected individuals' employment, unreasonably interfered with work performance, or created an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment) to persist in any University program or activity after receiving notice from a third party of a University employee's alleged sexual harassment, in violation of the Title IX implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. § 106.31 and/or 34 C.F.R. § 106.51.

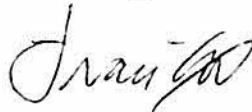
*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

Please note that opening an allegation for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination with regard to its merits. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the complainant, the recipient, and other sources as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and is dispositive of the allegation(s) in accordance with the provisions of Article III of OCR's *Case Processing Manual*.

OCR works to resolve allegations of discrimination promptly and appropriately. OCR will communicate with you periodically during its investigation. When contacting the office about your case, please refer to OCR Docket Number 15-16-2157. If you have questions or concerns about this letter, you may contact Ms. Karla Ussery of our staff, who has been assigned to investigate this complaint, at [Karla.Ussery@ed.gov](mailto:Karla.Ussery@ed.gov) or at (216) 522-2683.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Traci Ext", written in a cursive style.

Traci Ext  
Chief Attorney