



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

500 WEST MADISON ST., SUITE 1475  
CHICAGO, IL 60661-4544

REGION V  
ILLINOIS  
INDIANA  
IOWA  
MINNESOTA  
NORTH DAKOTA  
WISCONSIN

March 20, 2014

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Re: OCR Docket # 05-14-2334

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Dear

This is to notify you that the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), has carefully evaluated the above-referenced complaint you filed with OCR on March 7, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) against the Vincennes University (University) alleging discrimination on the basis of sex. We conducted the evaluation in accordance with OCR's *Case Processing Manual* to determine whether to open your complaint for investigation. We have determined that we have the authority to investigate your complaint.

Your complaint alleges that the University subjected your client, a female undergraduate student, to discrimination based on sex in the (b)(7)(A) academic year. The complaint raises whether the University fails to promptly and equitably respond to complaints, reports and/or incidents of sexual violence of which it had notice, including your client's report of sexual assault committed against her by a male student, thereby creating for students a sexually hostile environment.

OCR is responsible for enforcing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. § 1681, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 106. Title IX prohibits discrimination based upon sex in any educational 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 this law.

Because OCR has determined that it has jurisdiction and the complaint was filed timely, it is opening the allegation for investigation. Please note that opening the allegation for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination with regard to the 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, in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the *Case Processing Manual*.

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

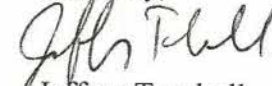
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

OCR offers, when appropriate, an Early Complaint Resolution (ECR) process to facilitate the voluntary resolution of complaints by providing an early opportunity for the parties involved to resolve the allegation. Some information about the ECR process is in the enclosure to this letter.

In addition, when appropriate, a complaint may be resolved before the conclusion of an investigation after the recipient asks OCR to resolve the complaint. In such cases, a resolution agreement signed by the recipient and submitted to OCR must be aligned with the complaint allegation or the information obtained during the investigation and it must be consistent with applicable regulations.

We will communicate with you periodically regarding the status of your complaint. If you are interested in resolving your complaint through OCR's ECR process or have any questions, please contact Salina Gamboa at (312) 730-1627 or by email at [Salina.Gamboa@ed.gov](mailto:Salina.Gamboa@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Jeffrey Turnbull  
Team Leader

Enclosure