



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

August 4, 2026

By email only to contact@legalinsurrection.com

William Jacobson

Re: Florida State University – OCR Complaint Number 04-25-2475

Dear William Jacobson:

On July 18, 2025, the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received your complaint against Florida State University (University). Your complaint alleges that the University discriminates on the bases of race, color, national origin, and/or sex by offering and administering the scholarships below (collectively, “Scholarships”). Specifically, you allege that Scholarships 1-14 have preferences based on race, color, and/or national origin; that Scholarships 15-27 have preferences based on sex; and that Scholarships 28-32 have preferences based on sex, as well as race, color, and/or national origin:

1. Crockett Family Fund for Excellence
2. Dr. Hulon and Dinah Crayton Endowed Scholarship
3. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Book Stipend
4. Danfoss FAMU-FSU College of Engineering Fund
5. FSU Black Alumni - Byrnes Guillaume, Esq Scholarship for a Black Student of Caribbean Descent
6. FSU Black Alumni - In Honor of Dr. William R. Jones
7. FSU Black Alumni - In Honor of Eva Killings
8. FSU Black Alumni - Student Involved in International Programs
9. FSU Black Alumni - In Honor of Maxwell Courtney
10. Mike Franck Memorial Scholarship for Engineering Students
11. Peter Boulware Toyota Scholarship
12. Southern Bell Presidential Scholarship Fund for Minority Engineering Students
13. W. David Ellrich, Jr. CPA Scholarship Fund
14. Fannie Lou Hamer Scholarship
15. College of Arts and Sciences Student Travel Awards
16. Dezso and Fanny Julius Scholars Fund
17. Eileen Marie Mahan Endowed Scholarship
18. Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation Nursing Scholarship
19. Joan G. Haworth Graduate Scholarship in Economics Endowment Fund
20. Junior Service League Endowed Scholarship Fund
21. Linda Arnold Christoff Memorial Scholarship Fund

22. Mary Dunn Baker Scholarship Fund for Economics
23. Mollie Walker Prescott Endowment
24. Marylou Kuhn and Ernestine Kuhn Endowed Scholarship Fund
25. O'Brien-Seidman Scholarship in Psychology
26. Panama City Junior Women's Club Endowed Scholarship Fund
27. Allison Elizabeth Overholt Memorial Scholarship
28. Crossman Career Builders Scholarship
29. Disciples of the Diamond Spring 81 Scholarship
30. Dynamic African American Women in Engineering Powerhouse Scholarship
31. Grant and Camille Farr Scholarship
32. Walter T. King 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. OCR enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. Sections 1681 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation 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. As a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Department, the University must comply with Title VI, Title IX, and their implementing regulations.

OCR will investigate the following issues:

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

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 [REDACTED] at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

LAURA
YEAROUT

Digitally signed by
LAURA YEAROUT
Date: 2026.08.04
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Laura Yearout
Acting Compliance Team Leader