



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

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ATLANTA, GA 30303-8927

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ALABAMA
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August 29, 2014

Dr. Randall L. Peters
President
Southern Crescent Technical College
Griffin Campus
501 Varsity Road
Griffin, Georgia 30223

Re: Complaint #04-14-2305

Dear Dr. Peters:

On March 3, 2014, the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received the above referenced complaint filed against Southern Crescent Technical College (College) alleging discrimination on the basis of sex. Specifically, XXXXXXXX (Complainant) alleged that the College discriminated against him when he requested the College to accept his name change on College records by requiring him to provide additional documentation, while female students are not required to provide additional documentation.

As a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Department, the College is subject to the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C §1681 et seq. and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex by recipients of Federal financial assistance. Accordingly, OCR has jurisdiction over this complaint.

OCR opened for investigation the legal issue of whether the College subjected the Complainant to different treatment on the basis of sex by requiring him to provide additional documentation for a name change request, while female students are not required to submit additional documentation for name change requests, in noncompliance with Title IX and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. §106.31 and §106.40.

During the course of the investigation, the College offered to resolve this complaint. OCR's complaint processing procedures provide that a complaint may be resolved when, before the conclusion of an investigation, the recipient asks to resolve the complaint. Based on the foregoing, OCR accepted the College's request to resolve this complaint, and the College entered into the enclosed Agreement, which when fully implemented, will resolve the issues of the complaint.

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by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*

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OCR's complaint processing procedures provide that a complaint may be resolved when, before the conclusion of an investigation, the recipient asks to resolve the complaint. Prior to the conclusion of the investigation, the College informed OCR of its desire to take voluntary action necessary to resolve the allegations in the complaint. OCR conducted interviews with College staff on June 3, 2014.

On August 29, 2014, OCR received the enclosed signed Resolution Agreement (Agreement) that when fully implemented, will resolve the complaint. OCR will monitor the implementation of this Agreement to ensure that it is fully implemented. If the College fails to fully implement the Agreement, OCR will reopen the case and take appropriate action to ensure compliance with Title IX. The complainant may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records, upon request. If we receive such a request, we will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information, which, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Intimidation or retaliation against complainants by recipients of Federal financial assistance is prohibited. No recipient may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by the laws OCR enforces, or because one has made a complaint, or participated in any manner in an investigation in connection with a complaint.

This concludes OCR's consideration of the complaint, which we are closing effective the date of this letter. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Jammie Randolph, Acting Compliance Team Leader, at (404) 974-939.

Sincerely,

Cynthia G. Pierre, Ph.D.
Regional Director
Office for Civil Rights

Enclosure