

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

ONE PETTICOAT LANE 1010 WALNUT STREET, SUITE 320 KANSAS CITY, MO 64106 REGION VII KANSAS MISSOURI NEBRASKA OKLAHOMA SOUTH DAKOTA

October 22, 2018

Sent via email only to XXXXXXXXX@XXXXX.XXX

Re: OCR Case Number: 07-18-2082 St. Louis Community College - Meramec Campus

Dear XX XXXXXX:

On April 25, 2018, the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received a complaint against St. Louis Community College - Meramec Campus, St. Louis Missouri (College). The Complainant alleged that the College discriminated against him on the basis of disability. This letter is to confirm that the College has voluntarily submitted a Resolution Agreement (Agreement) to resolve the complaint.

OCR is responsible for enforcing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), 29 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 794, and its implementing regulation, 34 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 104. Section 504 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by recipients of Federal financial assistance (FFA).

Additional information about the civil rights statutes OCR enforces is available at <u>http://www.ed.gov/ocr</u>.

The College is a recipient of FFA from the Department. Consequently, OCR has jurisdiction to investigate and resolve this complaint pursuant to Article III of OCR's *Case Processing Manual* (CPM).¹

During evaluation of the complaint filed against the College, and prior to issuing a letter of notification to the College, OCR initiated the Rapid Resolution Process (RRP) pursuant to Section 109 of the CPM.

On September 4, 2018, the College proposed resolving the complaint pursuant to Section 109 of OCR's CPM, which states: *"Where a recipient has indicated that it is willing to take action in*

¹ The CPM is available on OCR's website at <u>https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocrcpm.pdf</u>

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

the future to resolve the complaint...the complaint may be resolved by obtaining a resolution agreement, the implementation of which OCR will monitor. See CPM Section 304. Under this circumstance, OCR will issue a resolution letter pursuant to CPM Section 302 (c)."

On October 22, 2018, the College signed an Agreement (copy attached) that, when fully implemented, will resolve the allegation in this complaint. The College agreed to provide training on Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and Title II t. This training will be provided by an individual knowledgeable and trained in the requirements of Section 504 and Title II. In addition, the College agreed to refund the Complainant's tuition and fees for the course from which the Complainant withdrew during the Spring 2018 semester. Please review the Agreement for further details.

OCR considers this complaint resolved effective the date of this letter and will monitor the College's implementation of the Agreement. When OCR concludes the College has fully implemented the terms of the Agreement, OCR will close the complaint. If the College fails to carry out the Agreement, OCR may begin the investigation.

The College may not harass, coerce, intimidate, or discriminate against any individual because he or she has filed a complaint or participated in the complaint resolution process. If this happens, please be advised that individual may file another complaint alleging such treatment.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. In the event that OCR receives 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.

This letter sets forth OCR's determination in an individual OCR case. This letter is not a formal statement of OCR policy and should not be relied upon, cited, or construed as such. OCR's formal policy statements are approved by a duly authorized OCR official and made available to the public. The Complainant may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

If you have any questions, please contact XXXXX XXXXX XXXXXXX, Attorney at (XXX) XXX-XXXX (voice) or (877) 521-2172 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or by email at XXXXX.XXXXXX@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

XXXX XXXXXXX Acting Supervisory Attorney