



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

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July 31, 2020

Via email only: ckemperpelle@rogucecc.edu

Dr. Cathy Kemper-Pelle
President
Rogue Community College
3345 Redwood Highway
Grants Pass, Oregon 97527-9291

Re: Rogue Community College
OCR Reference No. 10202169

Dear Dr. Kemper-Pelle:

This letter is to inform you of the disposition of the above-referenced complaint against Rogue Community College (College) with the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR). The complainant alleged that the College discriminates against middle school male students, on the basis of sex, by hosting the STEM Camp for Middle School Girls (camp), which is restricted to female students.

As explained below, prior to completion of OCR's investigation, the College expressed an interest in voluntarily resolving the complaint and signed the enclosed Voluntary Resolution Agreement (agreement) to address the complaint allegation.

OCR investigated this case under the authority of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Because the College receives federal financial assistance from this Department, it is required to comply with Title IX.

The regulation implementing Title IX, at 34 C.F.R. § 106.31(a), states that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity operated by a recipient.

OCR's investigation to date indicated that the camp's promotional and recruitment materials were limited to girls. Specifically, the College's website had a "STEM Camp for Middle

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School Girls” section, which was comprised of a program titled “Verizon Innovative Learning Girls Summer Camp.” The website stated that the program was intended for girls entering grades 6-8, to ensure that every girl has access to a better future, and to ensure that girls have the tools to pursue STEM fields. OCR noted concerns that the promotional and recruitment materials, that included the title of the camp, used the term “girls” when referring to participants or registrants, may result in the exclusion of male students from the program. Before concluding OCR’s investigation, the university requested to resolve the complaint.

In accordance with Section 302 of the *OCR Case Processing Manual*, a complaint may be resolved at any time when, before OCR issues its final determination, the recipient expresses an interest in resolving the complaint allegations and OCR determines that it is appropriate to resolve the issues under investigation with an agreement. In light of the College’s willingness to address the concerns identified by OCR comprehensively without further investigation, OCR determined that entering into a voluntary resolution agreement was appropriate. Subsequent discussions with the College resulted in the College signing the enclosed agreement, which when fully implemented, will address the issue raised in this complaint.

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.

This concludes OCR’s investigation of the complaint. The complainant may have the right to file a private suit in court regardless of OCR’s determination.

Please be advised that 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, the 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.

OCR will monitor the implementation of the agreement and will close the complaint when OCR determines that the terms of the agreement have been satisfied. OCR received the first report under the agreement on July 30, 2020. OCR will respond to the report by separate letter.

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Thank you and your staff for your assistance during the resolution of this complaint. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Tania Lopez, senior attorney, at (206) 607-1623 or via email at tania.lopez@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Sarah Dunne
Chief Attorney

Enclosure

cc: XXXXXXXXXXXXX, Director of Risk Management & Title IX Coordinator
Rogue Community College (*via email at: XXXXXXXXXXXXX*)