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October 31, 2017

Ms. Candice Jackson  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
Office for Civil Rights  
Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Re: Berea College, Title IX Exemption

Dear Ms. Jackson:

It has come to my attention that Berea College was granted a religious exemption, on September 3, 1985, by the Office for Civil Rights (“OCR”) from certain provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This exemption was based on a 1976 request from the College, updated in 1985, indicating its adherence to Christian principles.

Berea College’s mission is inspired and guided by inclusive Christian principles as reflected in our Great Commitments as well as our motto which states “God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth.” The College is not, however, controlled by or affiliated with any church or religious organization. As an independent institution of higher education, Berea College is fully committed to complying with all aspects of Title IX.

The College has not, to my knowledge, asserted this limited exemption from Title IX at any time since 1985. Based on Berea’s long-standing policies and practices regarding non-discrimination, the College does not intend to assert this exemption in the future.

We appreciate OCR’s respect for the protected freedoms of religious and religiously affiliated institutions. In Berea’s case, however, we ask that OCR remove the College from any list of colleges and universities holding a Title IX exemption. Alternatively, we ask that OCR include this withdrawal in any public disclosure of records relating to the College’s status in relation to Title IX.

Sincerely,

BEREA COLLEGE

Lyle D. Roelofs  
President