



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

November 12, 2013

The Honorable Mary Landrieu
Chair, Committee on
Small Business & Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James E. Risch
Ranking Member, Committee on
Small Business & Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 201510

Dear Chairwoman Landrieu and Ranking Member Risch:

As you know, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 reauthorized the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Section 5143(c) of the statute requires the Inspector General of a Federal agency that participates in the SBIR or STTR to submit an annual report describing its investigations involving those programs. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) participates in the SBIR program; however, it does not participate in the STTR program as it does not have an extramural research or research and development budget in excess of \$1 billion.

Below you will find data required from the ED Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the SBIR program covering fiscal year (FY) 2013. ED's SBIR program reported that its total funding in FY 2013 was approximately \$13 million. Considering that ED administers more than 200 programs and disburses more than \$230 billion each year, the SBIR is a relatively small program within ED.

- (1) The number of cases referred to the Inspector General that related to fraud, waste, or abuse with respect to the SBIR program.*

For FY 2013, no cases were referred to OIG involving the SBIR program.

- (2) Report the actions taken in each case if fraud, waste, or abuse was determined to have occurred.*

N/A

(3) If no action was taken, report the justification for action not being taken.

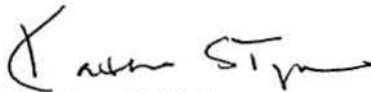
N/A

(4) Provide an accounting of the funds used to address fraud, waste, and abuse in the SBIR program, including a description of personnel and resources funded and funds that were recovered or saved.

In FY 2013, OIG's SBIR representative researched, prepared, and provided fraud awareness training to Department SBIR staff and grantees. Total Cost = \$1,463.

We will track and follow-up on any allegations or complaints we receive involving ED's SBIR program and will be certain to relate our efforts in future reports. If you have any questions or if you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (202) 245-6900, or have a member of your staff contact our Congressional Liaison, Catherine Grant, at (202) 245-7023.

Sincerely,



Kathleen S. Tighe
Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Arne Duncan, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education