



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

July 24, 2026

Rachel Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Southern Careers Institute
Sent via email to: [redacted content]

Re: Southern Careers Institute
OCR Complaint Numbers 06262160–65 & 06262320

Dear Ms. Lang:

The U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received complaints filed against:

- Southern Careers Institute – Brownsville;
- Southern Careers Institute – Corpus Christi;
- Southern Careers Institute – Harlingen;
- Southern Careers Institute – Pharr;
- Southern Careers Institute – San Antonio;
- Southern Careers Institute – Waco; and
- Southern Careers Institute – Austin (collectively, “the Institute”).

The complaints alleged the Institute discriminated against male students by listing a grant program (the Women in Tech Grant) on its website that is restricted to female recipients. This letter is to acknowledge that the Institute voluntarily entered into a Resolution Agreement (Agreement) resolving the complaint. This decision is explained below.

OCR enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. As a recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education, the Institute is subject to Title IX and to OCR’s jurisdiction. Additional information about the laws OCR enforces is available on our [website](#).

In response to the complaint, OCR investigated whether the Institute discriminates against students on the basis of sex in connection with the Women in Tech Grant in violation of Title IX and 34 C.F.R. § 106.37. During the investigation, OCR reviewed information provided by the Complainant and the Institute’s website.

Legal Standard

Title IX and its implementing regulations, at 34 C.F.R. § 106.31(a)-(b), prohibit a recipient from excluding, denying benefits to, or otherwise treating any person differently on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities, unless expressly authorized to do so under Title IX or the regulations. The regulations, at 34 C.F.R. § 106.34, further prohibit any recipient, including an elementary, secondary, or postsecondary institution, from carrying out its education programs or activities separately on the basis of sex, unless an exception applies. In addition, the regulations, at 34 C.F.R. § 106.31(b)(6), prohibit recipients from providing significant assistance to any outside organization that discriminates on the basis of sex in providing any aid, benefit, or service to students or employees.

The Title IX regulation, at 34 C.F.R. § 106.37, addresses financial assistance. Section 106.37(a) sets forth the general rule that a school shall not, on the basis of sex: (1) provide different amounts or types of financial assistance, limit eligibility, apply different criteria, or otherwise discriminate; (2) assist any foundation, trust, agency, organization, or person in providing assistance to a school's students in a manner which discriminates; or (3) apply any rule or assist in the application of any rule concerning eligibility for financial assistance that treats people differently with regard to marital or parental status.

34 C.F.R. § 106.37(b) addresses scholarships, fellowships, or other forms of financial assistance established by domestic or foreign wills, trusts, bequests, or similar legal instruments or by acts of a foreign government that require the award to be made to members of a particular sex and provides:

- (1) A recipient may administer or assist in the administration of scholarships, fellowships, or other forms of financial assistance established pursuant to domestic or foreign wills, trusts, bequests, or similar legal instruments or by acts of a foreign government which requires that awards be made to members of a particular sex specified therein; Provided, That the overall effect of the award of such sex-restricted scholarships, fellowships, and other forms of financial assistance does not discriminate on the basis of sex.
- (2) To ensure nondiscriminatory awards of assistance as required in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, recipients shall develop and use procedures under which:
 - (i) Students are selected for award of financial assistance on the basis of nondiscriminatory criteria and not on the basis of availability of funds restricted to members of a particular sex;
 - (ii) An appropriate sex-restricted scholarship, fellowship, or other form of financial assistance is allocated to each student selected under paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section; and
 - (iii) No student is denied the award for which he or she was selected under paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section because of the absence of a scholarship, fellowship, or other form of financial assistance designated for a member of that student's sex.

Summary of Preliminary Investigation

OCR reviewed the Institute's website and information provided by the Complainant. The grant program at issue in the complaint, the Women in Tech Grant, was listed on the Institute's website. The description of the Women in Tech Grant on the Institute's website indicated that grant recipients were limited to female students.

Analysis and Conclusion

OCR's investigation of the complaint raised concerns that the Institute promoted a grant on its website that discriminated against students on the basis of sex. Prior to the conclusion of OCR's investigation and pursuant to Section 302 of OCR's [Case Processing Manual](#), the Institute expressed an interest in resolving this complaint and OCR determined that a voluntary resolution is appropriate. Accordingly, the Institute signed the enclosed Agreement which, when fully implemented, will address all of the allegations raised in the complaint. OCR will monitor the Institute's implementation of the Agreement until the Institute has fulfilled its terms.

This concludes OCR's investigation of the complaint. When OCR determines the Institute has fully implemented the terms of the Agreement, OCR will close this complaint. If the Institute fails to carry out the Agreement, OCR may resume investigating the complaint. OCR will not close the monitoring of the Agreement until OCR determines that the Institute has demonstrated compliance with all the terms of the Agreement and is in compliance with Title IX, and its implementing regulations, which were at issue in this complaint.

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 OCR policy. OCR's formal policy statements are approved by a duly authorized OCR official and made available to the public. Individuals who file complaints with OCR may have the right to file a private suit in federal court regardless of whether OCR finds a violation.

The Institute may not harass, coerce, intimidate, discriminate, or otherwise retaliate against an individual because that individual asserts a right or privilege under a law enforced by OCR or files a complaint, testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding under a law enforced by OCR. Complaints alleging such retaliation may be filed with OCR.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. If OCR receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information that, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

If you have any questions, you may contact Helene J. Herauf, Attorney, at Helene.Herauf@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Benjamin Carr
Supervisory Attorney

Enclosure