



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

September 5, 2017

Michael J. Beals, Ph.D.
President
Vanguard University
55 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Dear Dr. Beals:

I write to respond to your December 15, 2016, letter to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), which you asked OCR to accept as a withdrawal of Vanguard University's religious exemption from Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. § 1681.

In 1988, OCR granted Southern California College's request for a religious exemption from certain provisions of the Title IX regulations. Your letter explains that Southern California College is now known as Vanguard University. Your letter further indicates that Vanguard, while still controlled by the Southern California District Council of the Assemblies of God, no longer wishes to claim a Title IX religious exemption.

Your letter further requests that OCR take the appropriate action to confirm and reflect Vanguard's request to disclaim the 1988 exemption. At times, OCR must produce to members of the public lists of institutions that currently hold exemptions or have requested exemptions in the past. If OCR produces such lists, it will take steps to ensure that Vanguard's status is accurately reflected. In addition, Vanguard's 1988 request letter and 2016 withdrawal letter, as well as OCR's responses, will be posted with other historical exemption materials on the Department's website.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Candice Jackson
Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

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