

Office for the Prevention of Harassment & Discrimination

Quarterly Newsletter

FALL 2017

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SECRETARY OF EDUCATION LOOKS TO REVISE SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE GUIDELINES

During a speech at George Mason University on September 7, Betsy DeVos, the education secretary, announced that the 2011 “Dear Colleague Letter,” which laid out expectations for school responses to sexual assault, would be going through a notice-and-comment period. The letter has been the subject of much debate since it was first issued, specifically for what many saw as a new requirement for schools of all levels but what the Obama administration viewed as a clarification of responsibilities around Title IX, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity.

DeVos hosted “listening sessions” on Title IX in July, during which she met with advocates and survivors of sexual assault, school administrators and representatives, and organizations concerned with the rights of the accused. As a result of these conversations, DeVos stated, “There are many things that are not working well.”

September’s announcement did not reveal new guidance or indicate that any changes should be expected at this time. The

public comment period is an opportunity for stakeholders’ voices to be heard.

Following the announcement by DeVos, UC President Janet Napolitano issued a statement in which she affirmed support of the state law and federal regulations that remain in effect and reiterated the university’s commitment to protecting students, faculty and staff from sexual violence and sexual harassment, while ensuring a fair process for all involved.

[Inside Higher Ed: DeVos to Replace Obama-Era Sexual Assault Guidelines](#)

[UC President Napolitano affirms support, protection for sexual violence survivors](#)

Even if DeVos issues new guidance, however, it likely will not change how California universities address sex discrimination on campus. [California Senate Bill 169](#), making its way through the California legislature, looks to codify the obligations of the 2011 “Dear Colleague Letter” and related guidance into state law.



FREE SCREENING OF *GET OUT* SEPTEMBER 25

As part of their continuing *Sex in the Cinema* series, OPHD will sponsor a screening of Jordan Peele’s *Get Out* on September 25 at 8 p.m. in the Price Center Theater.

When a young African-American man visits his white girlfriend’s family estate, he becomes ensnared in a more sinister real reason for the invitation.

The film touches on themes of racism, sexism, homophobia, and cultural stereotypes. There will be trivia, prizes and discussion prompts before the movie.

Cosponsored by the Black Resource Center.

[OPHD Presents: *Get Out*](#)



Since 1989, Thurgood Marshall College has had an exchange program with Spelman College.

SPELMAN COLLEGE TO ADMIT TRANSGENDER WOMEN STUDENTS

Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, Spelman College, a four-year liberal arts college for women, will begin accepting students who “consistently live and self-identify as women, regardless of their gender assignment at birth.” The announcement was made by Spelman College president Mary S. Campbell in a letter to students, faculty and staff in early September.

Since 2014, at least nine women’s colleges have moved to admit transgender women students. Spelman College’s announcement makes it the second historically black college for women to open its doors to transgender women students, following Bennett College’s announcement earlier this year

[Spelman College: Spelman Admissions and Enrollment Policy Update](#)

UC SUES TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FOR REPEAL OF DACA PROGRAM

The University of California is suing the Trump administration for “wrongly and unconstitutionally violating the rights of the University and its students by rescinding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.” Current UC President Janet Napolitano was secretary of the Department of Homeland Security from 2009 to 2013 and established the DACA program in 2012.

Applicants for DACA must be in or graduated from high school or college, members of the mili-

tary, or honorably discharged veterans. They cannot have been convicted of a felony or major misdemeanor, and they must renew their permit every two years. There are approximately 800,000 DACA recipients currently, and many recipients are affiliated with the University of California, as students, instructors, researchers and health care providers.

[UC: University of California sues Trump administration on unlawful repeal of DACA program](#)



If you already have DACA and your permit is set to expire between Sept. 5, 2017, and Mar. 5, 2018, you may apply for a two-year renewal. You must apply for renewal no later than Oct. 5.

UC BERKELEY TO OPEN GENDER-INCLUSIVE LOCKER ROOM

Construction on the first all-gender locker room in the University of California system is slated to begin in Spring 2018, with an expected opening in late-Fall 2018. The Berkeley space will feature private changing rooms, showers, lockers, and bathroom stalls. The new locker room is expected to be used by transgender and nonbinary students as well as families and students with disabilities.

In 2014, the University of California announced a policy requiring all single-stall bathrooms to be gender-inclusive. Three years later, the California legislature passed a similar law, which went into effect in March 2017.

[Berkeley Rec Sports: Gender-Inclusive Locker Room, First in the UC System, Coming to the UC Berkeley Campus](#)



BE THE VOICE — REPORT BIAS

OPHD oversees the UC San Diego online bias reporting system. All members of the UC San Diego community may report bias-motivated incidents or other acts of discrimination to reportbias.ucsd.edu or ophd@ucsd.edu.