



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
W A S H I N G T O N , D C

June 27, 2016

TO: The American University Community

FROM: Heather Pratt, J.D., Title IX Program Officer

SUBJECT: Notification of a Title IX Complaint

On June 23, 2016, American University received a notice from the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR). It informed us that OCR received a complaint on March 8, 2016, alleging "that the University failed to promptly and equitably respond to [an] April 2015 report of sexual assault by another student."

The OCR notice further states, in part, that "...opening the complaint for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination on the merits of the complaint. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the Complainant, the University, and other sources, as appropriate."

AU will respond in a timely manner to OCR's request for data necessary to investigate this complaint.

Sexual assault is a devastating experience that we work to prevent and respond to in our community. AU has worked diligently to develop policies and procedures that are compliant with OCR guidance, and it has pursued [continuous improvement in its support services](#) for survivors of sexual violence. AU also strives for timely, fair and equitable outcomes in investigations and in cases that go through Student Conduct.

We anticipate that OCR's assessment of our work will provide an opportunity to further enhance our Title IX related policies and related activities.

If you have questions, please send them to me at TitleIX@american.edu. You may refer to the following links to learn more about the university's policies, procedures and resources.

[Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Policy](#)

[Sexual Violence Resources at AU](#)

[Confidential and Non-Confidential Reporting at AU](#)

The [Title IX website](#) also includes information about:

- [Accused/Accuser Rights](#)
- [Student Conduct Procedures](#)
- [Criminal Procedures](#)