

Call to Action Letter

Regarding Anti-Inclusion Measures in Louisiana Universities

4/27/25

Dear public Universities in Louisiana,

I am writing to you as a resident of Louisiana regarding the safety of students and faculty on campuses across the state, in response to federal DEI restrictions creating widespread fear and mixed reactions on university campuses in Louisiana.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette on April 11th, 2025 disbanded its Office for Campus Inclusion.¹ Tulane University on March 13, 2025 disbanded and replaced its Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.² Louisiana State University replaced "Inclusion" in their department dealing with Civil Rights and Title IX, and removed resources and language from their website regarding diversity and inclusion.³

As Louisiana citizens and residents, this affects all of us. Universities must be safe havens for learning and growth, and that cannot occur if all are not welcome and encouraged.

Hate crime incidents in America increased from 11,634 in 2022 to 11,862 cases in 2023. Hate crimes rooted in race, ethnicity or ancestry remain the most common. Anti-Black crimes made up more than half of these incidents (51.3%).⁴ Additionally, LGBTQ+ students are one of the top three targeted groups in these school-based hate crimes specifically. College and university crimes represent about 23% of the total school hate crimes reported in 2022, and the FBI reports that crimes committed on campus also increased 38% between 2018-2022.⁵

Inclusion is not negotiable. Exclusion should not be, and never should have been, a fundamental value of education. Without diversity, equity, and inclusion, marginalized groups on university campuses may further be vulnerable to inordinate discrimination. I urge you to take a stand against outside pressures and stand firm in protecting every person who makes education a central part of Louisiana's future.

Signed,

Concerned Resident of Louisiana

¹ "University of Louisiana at Lafayette Abruptly Closes Office of Campus Inclusion." The Advocate. April 12, 2025. https://www.theadvocate.com/acadiana/news/education/university-of-louisiana-at-lafayette-abruptly-closes-office-of-campus-inclusion-federal-dei-trump/article_8fb591ea-63f9-4f0c-a472-606e71c40c9e.html.

² "EDI No Longer: 'Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion' Replaced with 'Office of Academic Excellence and Opportunity' due to Trump Administration Warnings." The Tulane Hullabaloo. March 13, 2025. <https://tulanehullabaloo.com/68978/news/edi-no-longer-office-of-equity-diversity-and-inclusion-replaced-with-office-of-academic-excellence-and-opportunity-due-to-trump-administration-warnings/>.

³ "LSU Renames 'Inclusion' Office, Removes Some Diversity Language from Website." The Advocate. January 9, 2024. https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/education/lsu-renames-inclusion-office-erases-diversity-from-site/article_c6a74396-af2c-11ee-bc49-cb05398539e1.html.

⁴ "2023 FBI Hate Crimes Statistics." Justice.gov. November 25, 2024. <https://www.justice.gov/crs/news/2023-hate-crime-statistics>.

⁵ "2024 FBI Hate Crimes & LGBTQ Students | Point Foundation." n.d. <https://pointfoundation.org/community/news/2024-fbi-hate-crimes-lgbtq-students>.



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