

DU responds to executive action on Title IX Trans protections

(as posted on the DU Pride Portal: www.du.edu/pride)

On 22 February 2017, the US Dept of Education withdrew the May 2016 guidance clarifying federal Title IX protections for transgender students at educational institutions receiving federal dollars (www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/02/22/516664633/trump-administration-rescinds-obama-rule-on-transgender-students-bathroom-use). As with some other executive changes under the new administration, there are immediate and understandable questions about what specifically this means for students and schools across the country.

As DU works to assess its full impact, a few DU-specific expectations have not changed:

1. **DU maintains its commitment to equity for all our community members**, including transgender, genderqueer and other beyond-the-binary affiliates. Gender identity and gender expression were added to the University's non-discrimination policy (www.du.edu/equalopportunity/policies) in 2007, putting DU among the first 8% of US colleges and universities to include all four categories explicitly in its governing policy.

2. Despite the DOE guidance rollback, there is still **considerable federal judicial precedence and momentum supporting protection of gender diversity**. Our own Sturm College of Law hosted Western New England University Law Professor Erin Buzuvis last October (www.facebook.com/QatDU/photos/a.10150755428995929.423355.114743170928/10154687554885929/?type=3&theater), who spoke on an ongoing legal evolution around *Bathrooms and Beyond: Title IX and the Pursuit of Equality for LGBTQ Students*.

3. Beyond the federal level, **both Colorado state statute** (www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/3%20CCR%20708-1.pdf?ruleVersionId=6008&fileName=3%20CCR%20708-1) **and Denver ordinance** (<https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/643/documents/DADO%20Flers.pdf>) **continue to prohibit discrimination** on the basis of gender identity/expression.

Therefore, **we affirm our ongoing commitment to our Trans students, staff, faculty and other affiliates**. And we will continue both not to allow discrimination (www.du.edu/equalopportunity/policies), and to strive actively for a fully inclusive community (www.du.edu/chancellor/vision/diversitystatement.html). That two-part excellence is at the core of our educational mission and our learning community.

As reference for all, here are a few additional relevant resources:

- **Open info session for concerned affiliates:** Friday, 24 February, 3-4pm in Driscoll Center North Commerce Rm (#127)
- Resources on our **Trans Tab** (www.du.edu/pride/trans), including our initial *Campus Guide*, with info on ongoing roll-outs of new inclusive practices
- **Queer & Ally (Q&A) Trainings:** www.du.edu/cme/programs-services/lgbtiqa/qna.html
- Office of **Equal Opportunity and Title IX:** www.du.edu/equalopportunity
- DU's new **Diversity Portal** will be adding more topical resources as well: www.du.edu/diversity/resources.html
- **FAQ on the Withdrawal of Federal Guidance on Transgender Students** (www.transequality.org/issues/resources/faq-on-the-withdrawal-of-federal-guidance-on-transgender-students) (National Center for Transgender Equality)

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