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MAY 17 2011

Dear (b)(6)

This is to respond to your November 5, 2010, letter to this office in which you inform this office that rights afforded you under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) were violated when unnamed officials at the (b)(6) (University) appear to have disclosed information from your education records, as reported to you by the University. This office administers FERPA, which addresses issues pertaining to education records.

FERPA is a Federal law that gives parents the right to have access to their education records, the right to seek to have the records amended, and the right to have some control over the disclosure of information from the records. When a student reaches the age of 18 or attends an institution of postsecondary education, that student is deemed "eligible" and all of the rights afforded by FERPA transfer from the parents to the student. The term "education records" is defined as those records that are directly related to a student and which are maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting for the agency or institution. Enclosed is a copy of a FERPA fact sheet.

In response to your inquiry, this office wrote to (b)(6) president of University, to provide her and the University staff with technical assistance in regard to FERPA (see attached) to ensure the University's compliance. In response to the incident which you identify in your letter, University staff took immediate measures to investigate the data breach to which you have been apprised. Should you require additional information in regard to the steps that the University has taken to ensure compliance with FERPA, you may wish to contact the University as follows:

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I trust this addresses your concern as it relates to FERPA.

Sincerely,

Ellen Campbell
Acting Director
Family Policy Compliance Office

Enclosure

cc: (b)(6)