

Federally Funded Racism

November 29, 2022

Can one cosponsor a racially discriminatory program without having any idea of its nature, even if this is implied by the program's very name?

The University of Oklahoma and other universities are cosponsors of the Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, a program funded by the National Science Foundation that requires beneficiaries be members of certain minority groups: "African American, Hispanic, Native American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander."

The Alliance's goal is to "increase recruitment, enrollment, and retention of minority students in STEM [science, technology, engineering, and math] programs."

The Alliance's goal is to "increase recruitment, enrollment, and retention of minority students in STEM [science, technology, engineering, and math] programs."

Because of the program's discriminatory criteria, the group Do No Harm has filed civil rights complaints against a dozen Oklahoma universities.



Its leader, Dr. Stanley Goldfarb, points out that the terms of the federally funded program "specifically exclude white students, students from middle eastern countries, and Asian students. . . . [B]ut it is illegal to engage in such discrimination based on race."

When first asked about the complaint, the University of Oklahoma declined comment. But after *The College Fix* site reported on the matter, OU spokesman Jacob Guthrie said that the university's site had been amended to reflect the fact that any student may apply, insisting also that the program "has never been restricted by race."

It sure looks to me as if OU officials, like those of Ithaca College (subject to a similar federal complaint in October), are now suddenly worried about legal consequences.

Anyway, Do No Harm's filing is already doing good, helping to re-establish that old liberal idea that governments must not discriminate on grounds of race.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.