

Presidents' Letter Regarding DOE's Princeton Investigation

Wesleyan University's President, Michael Roth, and Amherst College's President, Biddy Martin, have written the following statement regarding the DOE's investigation of Princeton surrounding racism and adherence to federal non-discrimination law:

Across the nation, individuals, families, communities, businesses, corporations, and educational institutions are coming to grips with the country's legacies of slavery and racial oppression, which stretch back over four hundred years. Recently, the U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education announced that it will be investigating Princeton University for possible misrepresentations in its reports of adherence to federal non-discrimination law because its president publicly recognized that historic racism has been embedded in the institution over time.

It is outrageous that the Department of Education is using our country's resources to investigate an institution that is committed to becoming more inclusive by reckoning with the impact in the present of our shared legacies of racism.

As presidents of colleges and universities, we, too, acknowledge the ways that racism has affected and continues to affect the country's institutions, including our own. We stand together in recognizing the work we still need to do if we are ever "to perfect the union," and we urge the Department of Education to abandon its ill-considered investigation of Princeton University.

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