



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
*FOIA Service Center*

July 24, 2020

Ms. Robyn K. Bitner  
National Student Legal Defense Network  
1015 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20005  
[robyn@nslsdl.org](mailto:robyn@nslsdl.org)

RE: FOIA Request No. 18-02532-F

Dear Ms. Bitner:

This letter is a final response to your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, dated July 31, 2018 and received in this office on August 1, 2018. Your request was forwarded to the appropriate office to search for documents that may be responsive to your request.

You requested the following information:

All documents explicitly mentioned in, or otherwise relied upon to justify, the December 2015 Hondros College Fine action, including, but not limited to: a. A copy of the lawsuit filed by former students against John G. Hondros and National Education Seminars, Inc. alleging that defendants provided false and misleading information in 2011 and 2012 regarding the status of accreditation by the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission ("NLNAC") of the AND program at Hondros' Independence location; b. A copy of Hondros' 2011-2012 school catalog; c. The thirty-three (33) Hondros' advertisements published from August 2010 until June 2012; d. NLNAC's June 8, 2010 letter to Hondros (see attached).

Enclosed is a CD containing 423 pages of documents that are responsive to your request. The documents provided are

- Hondros College

However, certain information has been withheld according to FOIA exemption(s) specified below:

- The applicant budget's information has been withheld in full under exemption (b)(4) of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). These provisions require us to withhold proprietary information, which, if disclosed, is likely to cause substantial competitive harm.
- Records or portions of records relating to personal information is exempt pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6) of the FOIA. Disclosure of this information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

The Department has concluded that you fall within the category of an All Other requester. These responsive documents have been provided to you at no cost. The release of information at no cost does not constitute the grant of a fee waiver, and does not infer or imply that you will be granted a fee waiver for future requests made under FOIA to the Department.

You have the right to seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services from the Department's FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The FOIA Public Liaison is responsible, among other duties, for assisting in the resolution of FOIA disputes. OGIS, which is outside the Department of Education, offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to appeals or litigation. They can be contacted by:

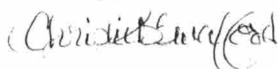
Mail	FOIA Public Liaison Office of the Executive Secretariat U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave., SW, LBJ 7C132, Washington, DC 20202-4536	Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail	<a href="mailto:robert.wehausen@ed.gov">robert.wehausen@ed.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:OGIS@nara.gov">OGIS@nara.gov</a>
Phone	202-205-0733	202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448
Fax	202-401-0920	202-741-5769

You have the right to appeal this decision by writing to the address below, 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Using the services described above does not affect your right or the deadline to file an appeal. Your appeal must be in writing and must include detailed statement of all legal and factual bases for the appeal; it should be accompanied by this letter, a copy of your initial letter of request, and any documentation that serves as evidence or supports the argument you wish the Department to consider in making an administrative determination on your appeal.

Appeals may be submitted using the on-line form available at  
[www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf](http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf)

E-mail: [EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov](mailto:EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov)  
Fax: 202-401-0920  
Mail: Appeals Office  
Office of the Executive Secretariat  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ 7W106A  
Washington, DC 20202-4536

Sincerely,



Christie D. Swafford  
Government Information Specialist, OS