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The advertisement features the Miracle-Gro logo on the left, followed by the text 'Flowering Plants' in green. In the center, there are two potted plants, one with red flowers and one with pink flowers. On the right, the text 'GUARANTEED TO THRIVE ALL SEASON LONG.*' is displayed above a green button that says 'Only at The Home Depot' with a right-pointing arrow.

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5 Mass. Colleges, Universities Under Federal Investigation for Possible Title IX Violations



U.S Vice President Joe Biden at an event on Tuesday announced the release of the first report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault. Credit: (Win McNamee/Getty Images)

By Matt Rocheleau

Boston.com Staff

MAY 1, 2014 12:09 PM

Five higher education institutions in Massachusetts are under investigation by the federal education department for possibly violating the law around handling sexual violence and harassment complaints, officials disclosed today.

Amherst College, Boston University, Emerson College, Harvard University's undergraduate college and its law school, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst are all being investigated for possible Title IX violations, the US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights announced.

The department for the first time today released a complete list of all of the higher education institutions under such investigation nationwide.

A total of 55 schools in the US are under investigation, the list shows.

Some of the investigations on the list — including at Amherst, Emerson and Harvard's undergraduate college — were known publicly before today because the department had previously confirmed institutions that were being investigated for Title IX complaints if a request was made about a certain school.

The Education Department vowed to regularly update the list going forward.

“We are making this list available in an effort to bring more transparency to

our enforcement work and to foster better public awareness of civil rights,” said a statement from assistant secretary for civil rights Catherine E. Lhamon.

“We hope this increased transparency will spur community dialogue about this important issue,” she added. “I also want to make it clear that a college or university’s appearance on this list and being the subject of a Title IX investigation in no way indicates at this stage that the college or university is violating or has violated the law.”

The department said it will not disclose details about any cases aside from when the investigations began.

When an investigation is completed, the department will disclose, upon request, whether the schools have been found in violation and entered into an agreement to address compliance concerns or whether insufficient evidence of a violation was found.

Officials said the list released today includes institutions that are being investigated because of complaints made to the Education Department and others that are being investigated as part of a compliance review.

“As with all OCR investigations, the primary goal of a Title IX investigation is to ensure that the campus is in compliance with federal law, which demands that students are not denied the ability to participate fully in educational and other opportunities due to sex,” the department said in a press release.

The release of the list comes after a newly-established White House task force this week published its first report and a list recommendations for combating sexual assault on college campuses.

Earlier this week, the Education Department announced it found through an investigation that Tufts University violated Title IX rules. The university [denied](#) the department’s findings.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, officials said.

Colleges, universities and K-12 schools that receive federal funds are required to comply with Title IX rules. Institutions that violate the law and fail to address problems can lose their federal funding and can be referred to the US Department of Justice for further action, officials said.

Below is the full list of institutions under investigation as of May 1. Schools are listed alphabetically by state.

AZ—Arizona State University

CA—Butte-Glen Community College District

CA—Occidental College

CA—University of California-Berkeley

CA—University of Southern California

CO—Regis University

CO—University of Colorado at Boulder

CO—University of Colorado at Denver

CO—University of Denver

CT—University of Connecticut

DC—Catholic University of America

FL—Florida State University

GA—Emory University

HI—University of Hawaii at Manoa

ID—University of Idaho

IL—Knox College

IL—University of Chicago

IN—Indiana University-Bloomington

IN—Vincennes University

MA—Amherst College

MA—Boston University

MA—Emerson College

MA—Harvard College

MA—Harvard University Law School

MA—University of Massachusetts-Amherst

MD—Frostburg State University

MI—Michigan State University

MI—University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

NC—Guilford College

NC—University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

ND—Minot State University

NH—Dartmouth College

NJ—Princeton University

NY—Cuny Hunter College

NY—Hobart and William Smith Colleges

NY—Sarah Lawrence College

NY—Suny at Binghamton

OH—Denison University

OH—Ohio State University

OH—Wittenberg University

OK—Oklahoma State University

PA—Carnegie Mellon University

PA—Franklin and Marshall College

PA—Pennsylvania State University

PA—Swarthmore College

PA—Temple University

TN—Vanderbilt University

TX—Southern Methodist University

TX—The University of Texas-Pan American

VA—College of William and Mary

VA—University of Virginia

WA—Washington State University

WI—University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

WV—Bethany College

WV—West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

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Panel finalizes recommendations to ease drug abuse



BOSTON (AP) — A state panel charged with finding ways to address Massachusetts' drug abuse epidemic is set to finalize its recommendations for Gov. Deval Patrick this week.

Health  14 min ago  Share



Holder: Subtle Racism Worse Than Bigoted Outbursts



Attorney General Eric Holder says subtle, institutionalized racism has a more “pernicious” effect than the occasional bigoted outburst.

News  19 min ago  Share



Harvard Prof. Henry Louis Gates Gets Unreal Housing Perks From NYU

Harvard University professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s side gig as a consultant to New York University has apparently won him some enviable New York City housing benefits.

News  1 hour ago  Share

Three Injured in Fitchburg Shooting

Three people were shot at KC's Pub on River Street in Fitchburg after midnight Saturday, NECN reports.



Boston Celtics Owners Invest in Skateboard League

There might not be many obvious similarities between high-tech electric car racing and some dude in a hoodie riding a skateboard.





BDC Now - Weekend Event Picks

Looking for something to do this weekend? Check out some events that include plenty of wine, a chance to meet some Red Sox players, a burger bash, and more. Watch BDC Weekend with Jenny Johnson.



US Ordered Not to Force Feed Guantanamo Prisoner

A federal judge in Washington ordered the U.S. military on Friday to at least temporarily stop force-feeding a hunger striking prisoner at the Guantanamo Bay naval base.

News  2 hours ago  Share





Genetically Modified Foods Confuse Consumers

Genetically modified foods have been around for years, but most people in the United States have no idea if they are eating them.

Food and dining  2 hours ago  Share

Vt. Sex Offender Faces Sentencing in Niece's Killing



A convicted sex offender who killed his 12-year-old niece after luring her to his house with a ruse about a pool party is due to be formally sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

News  2 hours ago  Share



Hike with Caution at White Mountains



Campgrounds in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest are open, but the Forest Service is warning people that some areas still have snow, and spring melt-off can lead to some slippery footing.

News  3 hours ago  Share



Will Connecticut Schools Ban Chocolate Milk?



Connecticut lawmakers moved forward this week on a new nutrition bill that could remove chocolate milk from public schools.

Health  3 hours ago  Share



Lacrosse Team Honors Fallen Officer and Coach

The girls lacrosse team at Exeter High School is honoring their late coach Stephen Arkell, a New Hampshire police officer who was killed in the line of duty.

News  3 hours ago  Share





Celebrating 10 Years of Gay Marriage

On May 17, 2004, Massachusetts offered the first marriage licenses to same-



sex couples. We asked five couples to talk about what they've learned about themselves and their relationships over the past decade.

Life  3 hours ago  Share




10 Parting Shots at SNL Heading Into The Season Finale

Here are "10 Parting Shots at SNL" as the show's 39th season comes to a close Saturday night with Andy Samberg as host.

Obnoxious Boston Fan  4 hours ago  Share

Environmentalists in Portland Oppose Tar Sands Oil

Environmentalists will rally at the Deering Oaks Park bandshell in Portland to oppose the Keystone XL oil pipeline and the shipping of tar sands oil through Maine.

News  4 hours ago  Share



Broke Beats: F.Stokes – ‘Liquor Sto’ Diaries’



Broke Beats is BDCwire’s open-source hip-hop column. Every Saturday, we showcase the best new albums, EPs, and mixtapes available for free stream or download. The Midwest has long been a stronghold for spirited rappers and producers who haven’t quite pierced the East Coast market. F.Stokes is among the most fearless of of these artists, and the... [Read more »](#)

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Oprah’s Network Postpones Sam Documentary



The planned documentary by the Oprah Winfrey Network on Michael Sam, the NFL's first openly gay player, has been postponed.

Sports  4 hours ago  Share



Woman Falls Down Elevator Shaft at Fenway Park

A 22-year-old woman is hospitalized after falling down an elevator shaft at Fenway Park Friday during a Red Sox game, according to the Boston Fire Department.

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Obama, Congress Move to Address Veterans Affairs Firestorm



The Obama administration and Congress are moving quickly to respond to a growing political firestorm over allegations of treatment delays and falsified records at veterans hospitals nationwide.

Business  5 hours ago  Share





Conn. Exhibit Looks at Benedict Arnold as Hero

A new exhibit on display at the Slater Memorial Museum is the latest effort to bring heightened visibility to a subject Norwich has deliberately ignored for centuries.

Travel  6 hours ago  Share

Testing Inconclusive, Suspected Bobcat Returned

A judge has returned a 38-pound feline to a New Jersey woman after DNA testing couldn't conclusively say whether it was a purebred bobcat.

News  6 hours ago  Share



Clearing This Afternoon with Sunshine for Sunday

Weather Wisdom  6 hours ago  Share





Nissan's Taxi of Tomorrow Hoping for a Fare Future

Members of the New England Motor Press Association had the dual experiences





of driving and riding in this Taxi of Tomorrow when Nissan brought a pair of the hackney versions of its NV200 van to town.

Cars  12 hours ago  Share



Teen's Arm Reattached After Pasta Accident



Four surgeries later, 17-year-old Brett Bouchard can move his arm after it was severed below the elbow.

News  13 hours ago  Share



Red Sox Fall to Tigers, 1-0, Back Under .500

The loss drops the Sox back below .500, at 20-21, and 10-12 at home.

Extra Bases  13 hours ago  Share

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TIGERS AT RED SOX

TONIGHT 6^P_{ET}

