



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

*950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

September 26, 2025

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Secretary, United States Department of Education

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Department of Justice has received reports of efforts to assist illegal immigrants who are enrolled at the University of Nevada, Reno ("UNR"), a public university that receives federal funds. On its website, UNR's UndocuPack office claims to provide "assistance" to illegal aliens "with on-campus and community resource referrals, financial aid and academic support."

As you know, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) prohibits illegal aliens from obtaining most taxpayer-funded benefits, so that "aliens within the Nation's borders [do] not depend on public resources to meet their needs." Public resources include programs administered by the Department of Education that provide postsecondary education and other similar benefits.

Available information indicates UNR is using valuable resources to steer illegal aliens toward financial aid, scholarships, and career opportunities that do not require applicants to provide a Social Security Number. This seems to be just the beginning. UndocuPack director Janet Najera, who is also a doctoral student in UNR's Equity, Diversity, & Language Education program, states that UNR's "goal is to grow the program and provide more support" to illegal aliens.

We are referring this matter to the Department of Education to investigate whether UNR is using taxpayer funds subsidize or promote illegal immigration. We look forward to working together.

Respectfully,

A blue ink signature of Harmeet K. Dhillon, written in a cursive style.

Harmeet K. Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice

A blue ink signature of Sigal Chattah, written in a cursive style.

Sigal Chattah
Acting United States Attorney
District of Nevada
U.S. Department of Justice

cc:

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
President, University of Nevada, Reno