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SPEECH FIRST

Speech First Releases Most Comprehensive Report on the Expansion and Influence of DEI Mandates Across America's College Campuses

67% of schools investigated require DEI courses to graduate

Washington, D.C. (April 11, 2024) – Today, Speech First released an alarming report titled [“No Graduation Without Indoctrination: The DEI Course Mandate.”](#) which lays bare the widespread expansion and troubling reality of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) requirements across America's colleges and universities— and their detrimental impact on free speech.

As the DEI bureaucracy has become more prominent and influential in higher education, colleges and universities have come to administratively require students to take DEI-related coursework. Speech First investigated 248 colleges and universities across every state, including Washington, D.C., representing a diverse array of campus types. The findings indicate that a significant majority (67%) of these institutions mandate DEI courses to satisfy general education requirements. Among the 165 establishments we identified that enforce these requirements, 59% are taxpayer-funded public institutions, and 41% are private institutions.

Upon closely examining the class descriptions and learning outcomes of hundreds of DEI courses— we observed a disturbing trend— the curriculum often advocates far-left ideological perspectives and sometimes even encourages students to get politically active on these issues. This report also details how DEI can remain entrenched in curriculum standards—even within states that have officially prohibited or defunded DEI departments in an effort to eradicate its dogma from campuses. The report also encompasses an appendix enumerating all identified schools that impose DEI requirements.

Our report concludes that major additional steps need to be taken by state lawmakers to disband DEI in higher education and will require a combination of the following actions:

- Prohibit the mandatory inclusion of ideological activism courses, such as critical race theory and DEI, as a condition for obtaining a degree,
- Ensure that universities provide instruction in foundational principles of the United States that make up our legal system and governing structures, and
- Educate students on the principles and ultimate value of free speech, debate, open inquiry, and viewpoint diversity in orientation programs, with the goal of alleviating student self-censorship and administrative or in-class coercive practices.

Speech First Executive Director, Cherise Trump, had this to say:

“Requiring students to take DEI courses in order to receive a diploma stifles genuine diversity of thought and undermines the principles of academic freedom. When students are indoctrinated and coerced to this level, civic engagement dies. Our report illuminates the true extent of this problem and how universities attempt to conceal their coercive tactics in pursuit of their political agendas. By exposing these practices, we aim to hold institutions accountable and spark a much-needed conversation about how to untangle DEI from college curriculum and restore open discourse and the free exchange of ideas in higher education.”

To schedule an engagement with Speech First, please contact Michael Hensley at michael@athospr.com and info@athospr.com.

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