



February 13, 2026

Garrett Gravley  
Program Counsel, Campus Rights Advocacy

Dear Mr. Gravley,

Clayton State University acknowledges receipt of your correspondence dated January 30, 2026, regarding the temporary blocking of a student from the University's official Instagram account. Thank you for your letter of thoughtful and constructive input.

The University views freedom of speech as a fundamental component of higher education and we are equally committed to protecting the First Amendment rights of our students, faculty, and staff. In that regard, we appreciate FIRE's similar commitment and continued efforts to defend free speech and protect the First Amendment across our nation.

In this case, the student's access to the account should not have been blocked. We have addressed this matter directly with the staff and provided additional guidance on the constitutional standards applicable to public university social media platforms.

The University is actively reviewing its internal protocols for managing external communications to ensure that account administrators apply consistent, viewpoint neutral standards for content moderation and user engagement and retraining personnel where needed.

At Clayton State University, we remain committed to upholding the First Amendment rights of our students and the broader community that we serve. We regret any concern or inconvenience this incident may have caused and recognize the importance of ensuring that our practices reflect that commitment.

The University values FIRE's engagement and remains firmly committed to safeguarding freedom of expression. We will continue strengthening transparency, ensuring consistent practices, and upholding the protection of lawful speech across all official University platforms.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ashlee Spearman  
Vice President - Enrollment, Marketing and Student Success

Cc: Georj L. Lewis, President Clayton State University