



MULLEN  
COUGHLIN<sup>LLC</sup>  
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August 14, 2020

**VIA E-MAIL**

Office of the Attorney General  
1125 Washington Street SE  
PO Box 40100  
Olympia, WA 98504-0100  
E-mail: securitybreach@atg.wa.gov

**Re: Notice of Data Event**

Dear Sir or Madam:

We represent Metropolitan State University Denver Foundation (“MSU Denver Foundation”) located at 890 Auraria Parkway, Denver, Colorado 80204, and are writing to notify your Office of an incident that may affect the security of some personal information relating to 1,235 Washington residents. This notice may be supplemented with any new significant facts learned subsequent to its submission. By providing this notice, MSU Denver Foundation does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of Washington law, the applicability of the Washington data event notification statute, or personal jurisdiction.

**Nature of the Data Event**

On July 16, 2020, MSU Denver Foundation’s third-party vendor, Blackbaud, informed it that, in May 2020, Blackbaud suffered a ransomware event which resulted in potential unauthorized access and acquisition to certain information maintained by Blackbaud. Blackbaud is a cloud computing provider that offers customer relationship management and financial services tools for independent schools, universities, and non-profit organizations.

Blackbaud advised it worked with forensic experts and law enforcement to investigate the incident and reported that data was exfiltrated by the unknown actor at some point before Blackbaud locked the unknown actor out of its environment on May 20, 2020. Although Blackbaud was unable to confirm a specific timeframe of data access or acquisition, or if specific information related to MSU Denver Foundation was actually accessed or acquired, in an abundance of caution, MSU

Denver Foundation conducted an internal review of the entirety of the modules identified by Blackbaud to identify any personal information. On or about August 10, 2020, this review identified dates of birth for Washington residents.

### **Notice to Washington Residents**

On August 8, 2020, MSU Denver Foundation provided written notice of this incident to affected individuals, which includes 1,235 Washington residents. Written notice was provided in substantially the same form as the letter attached here as *Exhibit A*.

### **Other Steps Taken and To Be Taken**

Upon being notified of this event by Blackbaud, MSU Denver Foundation moved quickly to confirm additional information from Blackbaud and conduct its own review of impacted modules to determine what data was potentially at risk. As part of its ongoing commitment to the security of information in its care, MSU Denver Foundation is also working with Blackbaud to evaluate additional measures and safeguards to protect against this type of incident in the future.

### **Contact Information**

Should you have any questions regarding this notification or other aspects of the data security event, please contact us at (267) 930-4815.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael J. Bonner of  
MULLEN COUGHLIN LLC

# EXHIBIT A



Metropolitan State University of Denver  
Foundation, Inc.  
Campus Box 14 P.O.Box 173362  
Denver, CO 80217-3362  
303-615-0065 Phone  
720-778-5846 Fax  
msudenver.edu/giving

Dear xxx,

We write to make you aware of an issue recently brought to our attention. On July 16, 2020, our third-party vendor, Blackbaud, informed us that, in May 2020, Blackbaud suffered a cyber incident which resulted in potential unauthorized access to certain information maintained by Blackbaud. Blackbaud is a cloud computing provider that offers customer relationship management and financial services tools for approximately 35,000 independent schools, universities and nonprofit organizations. Unfortunately, Blackbaud's incident impacted a significant number of these organizations, including the Metropolitan State University of Denver Foundation.

Blackbaud advised that they worked with forensic experts and law enforcement to investigate and reported to us that this incident did not affect sensitive information such as credit card or bank account information. However, Blackbaud determined that the impacted files may have included your date of birth. Upon learning of this event, and out of an abundance of caution, we began our own investigation to confirm Blackbaud's assurances and better understand what occurred.

Although we have no evidence of actual or attempted misuse of information as a result of this incident, as a best practice, we recommend you always remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious activity or suspected identity theft to the proper law enforcement authorities. We are also providing contact information for the three primary credit reporting agencies below:

<b>TransUnion</b>	P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19106	1-800-916-8800
<b>Equifax</b>	P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30374-0241	1-800-685-1111
<b>Experian</b>	P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013-0949	1-888-397-3742

Please know that we take this incident and the security of the personal information entrusted to us very seriously, and we are diligently working to determine the full nature and scope of this incident. While we work to better understand this event, we are reaching out to you, as a valued donor and member of our community, in the interest of transparency. We sincerely regret any concern this incident may cause you and will communicate, if necessary, pending the result of our investigation.

Should you have any further questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 303-605-7295 or lherrer7@msudenver.edu.

Sincerely,

Lori Herrera  
Chief Financial and Operating Officer of Advancement and the Foundation  
Metropolitan State University of Denver  
Campus Box 14, P.O. Box 173362  
Denver, CO 80217-3362