



Office of the Chairman

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Federal Trade Commission
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

**Statement of Chairman Andrew N. Ferguson joined by Commissioners Melissa Holyoak
and Mark R. Meador on Grand Canyon Education, Inc.**
August 15, 2025

Today, the Commission dismissed its complaint against Grand Canyon Education, Inc., and its CEO, Brian Mueller. This case, which we inherited from the previous administration, was filed nearly two years ago and has suffered losses in two motions to dismiss.¹ These losses are compounded by recent events: Grand Canyon secured a victory over the Department of Education in a related matter before the Ninth Circuit²; the Department of Education rescinded a massive fine levied on related grounds³; and the Internal Revenue Service confirmed that Grand Canyon University is properly claiming 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation designation.⁴

In its reduced form, this case presents consumers very little upside relative to the cost of pursuing it to completion, especially given the developments chronicled above. We view it as imprudent to continue expending Commission resources on a lost cause. Because we have a duty to maximize consumers' return on their tax-dollars investment, we have decided against pursuing this matter any further.

¹ *FTC v. Grand Canyon Educ.*, 745 F. Supp. 3d 803, 826 (D. Ariz. 2024) (dismissing GCU from the case); *FTC v. Grand Canyon Educ.*, No. CV-23-2711, 2025 WL 721721 (D. Ariz. Mar. 6, 2025) (dismissing GCU from the case again).

² *Grand Canyon Univ. v. Cardona*, 121 F.4th 717, 723–27 (9th Cir. 2024).

³ *U.S. Department of Education Rescinds Record Fine, With Prejudice, Against GCU*, GCU News (May 16, 2025), <https://news.gcu.edu/gcu-news/u-s-department-of-education-rescinds-record-fine-with-prejudice-against-grand-canyon-university/>.

⁴ *IRS Reaffirms GCU's 501(c)(3) Status, Further Refuting Lawfare Aimed at University*, GCU News (May 20, 2025), <https://news.gcu.edu/press-releases/irs-reaffirms-501c3-status-for-gcu-decision-further-refutes-lawfare-aimed-at-university/>.