

Jerry Wu

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EDUCATION

Northwestern University, Medill School of Journalism | Evanston, Illinois

Bachelor of Science in Journalism, double major in International Studies | 2023 - 2027

EXPERIENCE

San Francisco Chronicle | San Francisco, California

Incoming Breaking News Intern | *June 2025 - September 2025*

POLITICO | Arlington, Virginia

POLITICO Journalism Institute Participant | *May 2025 - June 2025*

- Admitted to ultra-competitive training program for rising journalists looking to sharpen skills in politics and policy reporting
- Engaged in various workshops, industry expert panels and close mentorship from POLITICO's reporters

The Daily Northwestern | Evanston, Illinois

Managing Editor | *March 2025 - June 2025*

- Edited stories from all five newspaper sections three nights a week, ensuring content accuracy, clarity and style guidelines
- Spearheaded coverage on Northwestern's response to Trump administration threats against higher education during second term; earned citations in major outlets, including POLITICO, Axios and other Chicago leading publications
- Analyzed and executed news site redesigns to boost traffic and reader engagement

Campus Editor | *August 2024 - December 2024*

- Led a team of about 30 reporters, developed new beats and ran weekly staff meetings for core newspaper desk
- Managed the daily news budget; edited and published three to six stories per night, four to five times a week
- Served as the point of contact for breaking news and liaised with university administration and spokespersons

Assistant Campus Editor | *December 2023 - May 2024*

- Edited stories and assembled paper layouts two to four nights a week; oversaw the news desk on the editor's night off
- Broke stories on pro-Palestinian encampment, university administration policies, graduate student labor unions

Medill News Service | Washington, District of Columbia

National Security Reporter | *January 2025 - March 2025*

- Carved a beat in veterans affairs, uncovered scoops and analyzed legislations; built extensive sourcing in veteran community
- Pursued daily and long-form enterprise stories for news publications, including the Military Times and Military.com
- Vetted political candidates by researching financial records, campaign contributions and education histories

The San Diego Union-Tribune | San Diego, California

Metro Intern | *June 2024 - August 2024*

- Wrote two to three times a week on San Diego politics and government accountability, including five A1 stories
- Conducted investigations on prominent charities facing regulatory scrutiny, leading them to resolve their noncompliance
- Filed in-depth stories on local legislation and events, drawing thousands of views and converting new subscribers

nuAZN Magazine | Evanston, Illinois

Section Editor | *December 2023 - May 2025*

- Led a team of editorial writers, editing and fact-checking all section stories for the school's Asian American magazine
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SKILLS

Editing and Reporting: AP Style copyediting, requesting public records, Excel data analysis skills, live-blog coverage,

Languages: Chinese - fluent, Spanish - advanced

AWARDS

- 2025 Illinois College Press Association Honorable Mention for In-Depth Reporting category
- 2024 Society of Professional Journalists Region 5 Finalists for Investigative Reporting and Campus Reporting categories

REFERENCES

Sam Schulz

Government and Watchdog Editor

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Email: sam.schulz@sduniontribune.com

Phone number: (917) 656-6156

Elizabeth Shogren

Associate Professor

Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University

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Jeff McDonald

Watchdog and Accountability Reporter

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Email: jeff.mcdonald@sduniontribune.com

Phone number: (619) 794-6262

News Story:

<https://dailynorthwestern.com/2025/04/02/top-stories/northwestern-directs-some-graduate-programs-to-cap-class-sizes-defer-enrollments/>

Northwestern directs some graduate programs to cap class sizes, defer enrollments

Jerry Wu

Late last month, Northwestern officials directed some of the University's graduate programs to cap their incoming class sizes by deferring enrollment for applicants who had yet to accept their admission offers, according to interviews with faculty and students and emails obtained by The Daily.

The latest saga comes as universities nationwide have been pitted against federal research cuts by President Donald Trump's administration. Some of the cuts have already been enforced at NU. In recent weeks, the National Institutes of Health canceled nearly a dozen NU project grants worth millions of dollars, targeting those related to LGBTQ+ health.

The growing pressure has led universities to resort to cost-cutting measures like reducing class sizes and pausing further admissions primarily among its graduate schools.

Citing the uncertainty in federal funding ahead, NU has already instructed programs across the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and Feinberg School of Medicine to delay the enrollment of some prospective students until 2026.

In late March, many faculty leaders, whose programs were close to hitting their target enrollment numbers, received emails from University officials instructing them to defer the rest of students' pending offers within hours.

At this time, students who already accepted their offers will still enroll for the 2025 academic year, according to faculty members.

The Daily was not able to confirm how many department programs were instructed to defer student enrollments. A University spokesperson told The Daily that because the University saw a higher than usual rate of Ph.D. acceptances across its schools and programs "likely due to complicated factors in the national higher education landscape," they've resorted to deferring enrollments for some students to prevent over-enrollment this year. The spokesperson denied that the University is reducing class sizes.

Prior to the University's order, one Feinberg professor, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of retribution, said their program had intended to cut its number of acceptances in half, after reaching a higher than usual yield rate in 2024.

Last year's high admission yield also coincided with the collective bargaining agreement established by the Northwestern University Graduate Workers union, which prompted increased graduate student stipends.

This year, the professor said their program's yield was even higher, potentially due to other universities rescinding students' offers.

"Due to rescinding offers and the climate in the rest of the country, we had many very early acceptances," the professor said.

Once the class yield hit a certain number, the professor said school leaders told them to soon defer the remaining outstanding offers to reach the official target enrollment they had set.

"We didn't want to be in a situation where we have a bunch of students who are accepted to our program where we can't find labs that have funding for them," the professor said.

An email obtained by The Daily also revealed that Weinberg's Political Science Graduate Studies program deferred most of its outstanding admissions to the 2026 cohort. The email attributed the decision to the college's admissions being "well ahead of its target numbers" in the face of "overall budget uncertainty" in the University.

Another email indicated that prospective students who had not yet accepted their offers to Weinberg's Graduate Chemistry Ph.D. program saw their enrollment deferred until Fall 2026.

One Weinberg professor, who asked to remain anonymous in fear of retribution, said they were told to defer about the rest of their program's pending offers after nearing their program's target enrollment number. Almost half of their graduate program offers for this admission cycle were deferred to 2026.

"They're trying to cap uncertainty," the professor said. "This isn't the shrinking of the graduate program or adding class sizes or anything like that, but it is pretty turbulent for some of the students."

The professor said one student who had been accepted to their program was supposed to visit campus. But they cancelled the plans after receiving a deferral email.

Some NU graduate students said it was highly uncharacteristic of the University to finalize its offers so early on. April 15 is a common nationwide deadline for graduate students to accept offers of admission with financial support.

Gracie Siffer, a third-year Ph.D. student in biology, remembered accepting her offer from NU close to the last day of the deadline. Up to that point, she said she needed time to weigh her options before eventually committing to NU.

Siffer said she imagined that most students were likely caught off guard about their deferred enrollment and now must reassess their graduate plans.

“They were making a really difficult decision, and now they have the added layer of like what if both of your options rescinded your offer at the same time?” Siffer said. “It’s very concerning for people that might have been planning on doing this and banking on it.”

Feature Story:

<https://dailynorthwestern.com/2024/10/02/campus/nu-moves-toward-institutional-neutrality-joining-colleges-nationwide/>

NU moves toward institutional neutrality, joining colleges nationwide

Jerry Wu

Northwestern announced it will begin to limit official statements on political matters except those that directly affect the University's operations on Friday, joining a growing number of universities nationwide that have adopted similar policies.

The move came almost two months after the President's Advisory Committee on Free Expression and Institutional Speech, convened by University President Michael Schill in February, submitted a statement summarizing its examination of NU's free speech policies.

The original statement — a product of over six months of discussions — appears to resemble a curated version of institutional neutrality with a separate emphasis on the independence of academic discourse on paper.

One of the policy's stipulations is that members of the NU community should not make official statements on behalf of the University or its constituent parts, which the committee cautioned could constitute "coercion." In avoiding that possibility, the committee aims to allow students and faculty members to have more individualistic academic voices on paper.

"It's an internally directed idea, rather than an external one," said Communication Prof. Mary Zimmerman, who was one of the 11 members on the committee. "It's about if a department chair or head of a program or a president of the University says, 'I am speaking for us or for our department,' there is always the possibility that coercion is involved."

In the last year, a number of elite universities, including Harvard University, Stanford University and the University of Pennsylvania, have similarly enacted their own institutional neutrality policies.

Efforts to implement these policies only picked up after student protests swept through university campuses following the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war in October 2023.

"The very reason for this limitation is our firm commitment to values about which we are not neutral: fostering open and equitable dialogue and advancing the University's core mission — the pursuit of knowledge in the service of truth," the committee's statement reads.

Earlier this year, Schill, joined by other university leaders, testified before Congress' "Calling for Accountability: Stopping Antisemitic College Chaos" hearing regarding concerns over what elected officials deemed an "inadequate" response to antisemitic rhetoric across NU's campus.

Most of the institutional neutrality policies that have since emerged are largely based on the Kalven Report, a 1967 statement from the University of Chicago regulating its own institutional speech, experts say.

“For Northwestern, it was a difficult move to make because of how dividing the issue between Israel and Palestine was, and many university presidents didn’t want to speak out then,” said Tom Ginsburg, the Leo Spitz Distinguished Service Professor of International Law at UChicago. “But like many schools, Northwestern is moving in our direction.”

While the committee said its statement isn’t “a simplistic vision of university neutrality,” it crucially mirrors Schill’s previous messages to the NU community that the University should not speak on behalf of students, staff or faculty on controversial issues that impact its “core mission.”

Nonetheless, the committee’s decision to only reduce the scope for the University to weigh on matters that solely affect its institution sets a lofty criteria. That move appears to be even more narrow than the Kalven Report, which largely avoided statements that concern controversial issues, according to Robert Post, Sterling Professor of Law at Yale University.

“If I say the exception should be statements that refer to the mission of the university, it’s much broader than what they’ve written (in the statement),” Post said. “This is very narrow, and it would all depend on how you gloss the phrase.”

Some members of the NU community have already applauded the statement and consider the move important to create a precedent laid out for the University years to come.

Pritzker Prof. Andrew Koppelman said universities shouldn’t have to resort to a public statement to defend their interests.

“It’s antithetical to the mission of the university to the extent that it lays down an official line, pre-packaged for the students, instead of forcing the students to do the difficult work figuring out what they think about matters that reasonable people disagree about,” Koppelman said.

In the past, Schill has issued statements on certain political matters on his own behalf — a move seen by other University leaders. For example, in a message to the NU community on Oct. 12, 2023, he condemned acts of violence related to the Israel-Hamas war.

“That is the view of Mike Schill, citizen, Jew and human being,” Schill wrote in the message. “I didn’t give up those parts of me when I assumed the presidency of Northwestern.”

Schill is also an ardent proponent of the Chicago Principles — a set of guidelines for free speech on college campuses issued by UChicago in 2014 when he was the dean of its law school, and the committee’s statement also reflects those principles. There, he worked closely

with former UChicago Provost and Law Dean Geoffrey R. Stone, a mentor of Schill's and a prominent scholar on First Amendment law.

More than 100 universities have since adopted or endorsed the Chicago Principles or similar statements as a way to outline their commitment of free expression on campus.

Schill also found himself at the center of several debates pertaining to free speech as the former president of the University of Oregon. Since then, he has repeatedly chimed in on the balance between free speech and creating a safe academic environment.

Zimmerman emphasized that the committee's directive was not intended to censor members of the NU community but rather to prevent coercion from University officials.

"We are not limiting how anyone can speak for themselves," she said. "This is just about presuming to speak for others."

Additional Story 1:

<https://dailynorthwestern.com/2025/05/05/lateststories/by-the-numbers-the-trump-administration-has-frozen-millions-in-federal-support-for-northwestern-heres-what-it-means-for-science-funding-on-campus/>

By the numbers: The Trump administration has frozen millions in federal support for Northwestern. Here's what it means for science funding on campus.

Jerry Wu

Since returning to office, President Donald Trump's administration has frozen millions in federal funding for universities nationwide as part of its pressure campaign on higher education.

Northwestern, joining a slate of other elite universities, quickly found itself caught in the administration's crosshairs last month.

The Trump administration has already frozen \$790 million in federal funding for NU because of ongoing federal antisemitism investigations.

While the ramifications of the move continue to develop, concerns have escalated on the future of essential research and development programs at NU.

In recent weeks, the University has received 98 stop-work orders — primarily from the Department of Defense — and 51 grant terminations, many of which have targeted LGBTQ-related projects.

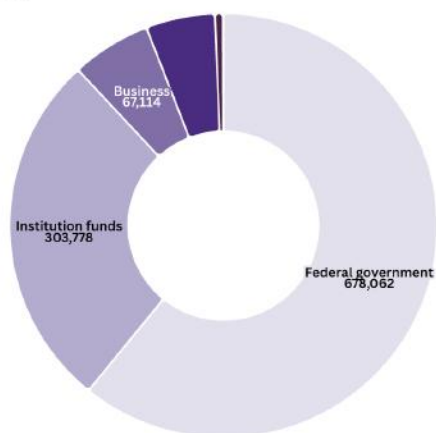
NU administrators also stated that University researchers have not received payments for National Institutes of Health grants since March and that those funds may be frozen.

The Daily analyzed NU's latest research and development spending financed from federal sources. The data is from the 2023 Higher Education Research and Development Survey by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics. That year, NU received around \$678 million in federal funding.

Sources of funding for NU's R&D expenditures

The given numbers are in thousands of dollars.

■ Federal government
 ■ Institution funds
 ■ Business
 ■ Nonprofit organizations
 ■ All other sources
 ■ State and local government

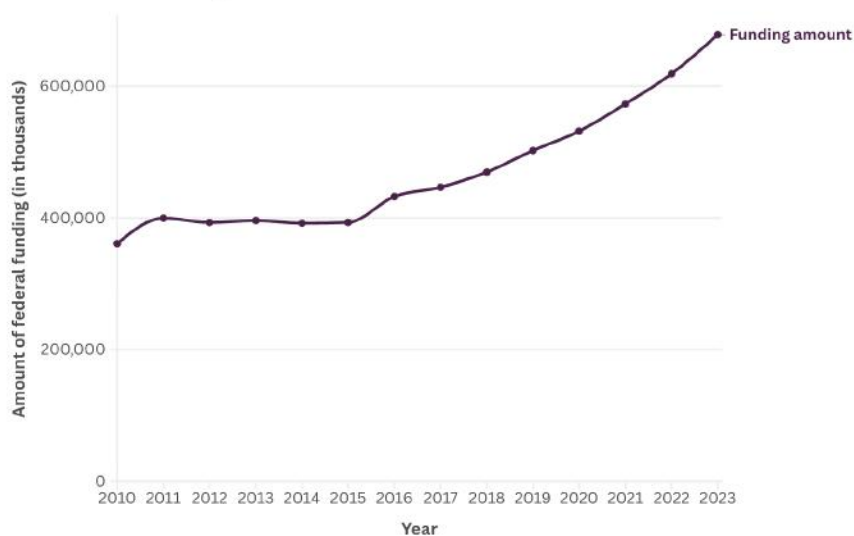


Source: [National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Table 39](#) • Graphic by Sarah Serota

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In 2023, NU's funding from federal sources formed 60% of its R&D expenditures, or spending on research and development. A considerable share of the University's research funding — around \$330 million — also comes from its own pocketbook.

Federal funding NU received from 2010 to 2023



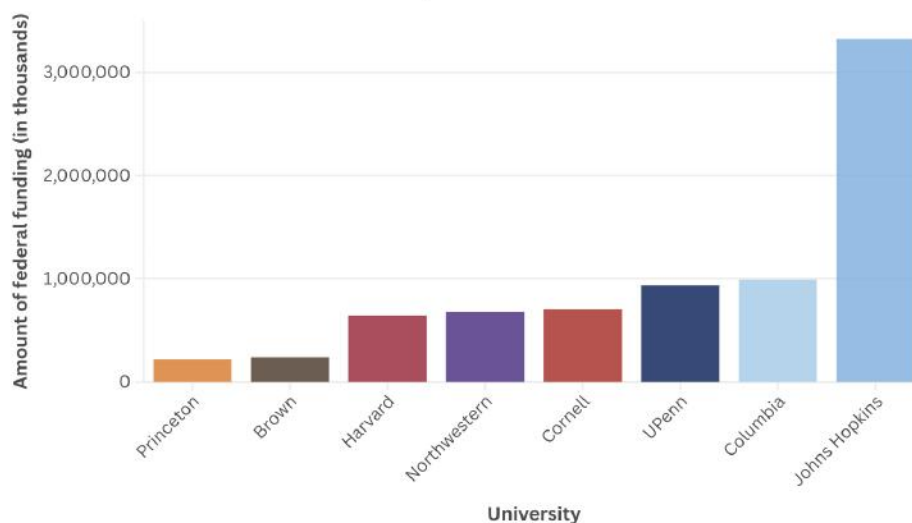
Source: [National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Table 24](#) • Graphic by Sarah Serota

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Since 2010, NU's total R&D expenditures have nearly doubled. Compared to the University's total expenditures at the end of the Trump administration's first term, NU has increased that figure by more than \$100 million.

Federal funds received by universities that have experienced funding cuts or freezes

Amounts are based on 2023 numbers, which is the most recent data available.



Source: [National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Table 38](#) • Graphic by Sarah Serota

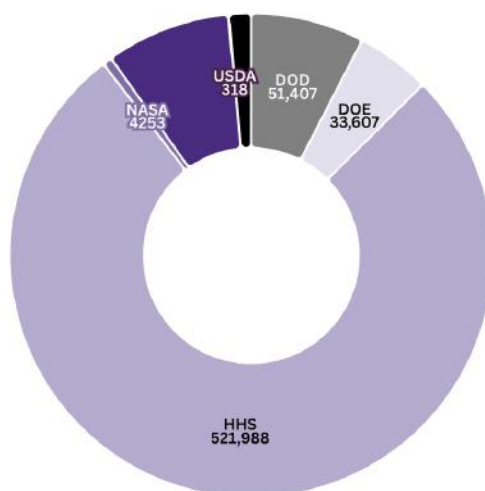
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Compared to the other universities which have seen federal funding cuts or freezes, NU lands in the middle of the pack with its total federal research funding. NU is one of the few universities outside of the Ivy League to see funding losses from the Trump administration.

Northwestern's federal funding in 2023 by federal agency

The numbers are in thousands of dollars

Legend: DOD, DOE, HHS, NASA, NSF, USDA, Other



Source: [National Science Foundation](#) • Graphic by Sarah Serota

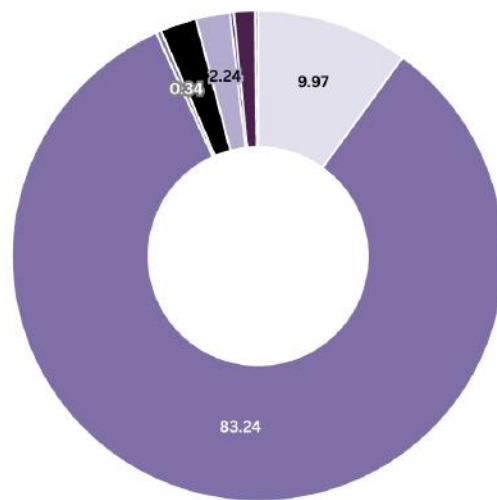
Made with Flourish

The bulk of NU's federal funding comes from the Department of Health and Human Services. That sector of the University's funding has also endured the most funding cuts and freezes from the Trump administration.

At least 12 projects, many related to LGBTQ health research, funded by the NIH have been terminated by the Trump administration since February.

The breakdown of NU science R&D expenditure by category

Physical sciences Life sciences Psychology Social sciences Other science
Mathematics and statistics Computer and information sciences
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences



Source: [National Science Foundation](#) • Graphic by Sarah Serota

Made with [Flourish](#)

The majority of NU's R&D expenditures have gone toward life sciences, supporting numerous research projects from the lab to practical applications.

In the next months, NU could continue to see more research projects and programs axed due to the federal funding freeze.

Additional Story 2:

<https://dailynorthwestern.com/2025/03/03/campus/the-daily-explains-how-northwestern-has-responded-to-trumps-anti-dei-orders/>

The Daily Explains: How Northwestern has responded to Trump's anti-DEI orders

Jerry Wu

Over the past few weeks, Northwestern, like other universities nationwide, has been complying with the new Trump administration's hefty diversity, equity and inclusion initiative crackdowns.

In President Donald Trump's first week in office, he issued an executive order to eliminate DEI policies in federally funded programs.

At the start of February, only a few NU schools took any initiative to obey the order, scrubbing references to DEI efforts here and there on their websites.

But the stakes soon rose again. In a Feb. 14 letter to universities, the Education Department presented colleges nationwide with an ultimatum: eliminate all diversity initiatives in the next two weeks or risk losing federal funding.

Though a federal judge blocked most of Trump's initial anti-DEI order on Feb. 21, meaning the federal government cannot revoke any of NU's funding due to noncompliance, the effects at NU have been tangible. The University has erased mentions of DEI in nearly all of its schools and colleges, as well as other support sites.

In a statement to The Daily, a University spokesperson said that "Northwestern is currently reviewing its policies and programs to ensure we meet all federal and state laws and requirements."

The spokesperson added that "equal opportunity for every member of the Northwestern community remains central to our core values and we are committed to ensuring that students, faculty and staff enjoy a community that is welcoming to all."

Here's what remains on NU's websites.

Feinberg School of Medicine

NU's school of medicine was the first to show signs of falling in line with Trump's executive orders.

A little more than three weeks after Trump first issued his DEI-related executive order, Feinberg quietly went to work.

On Feb. 13, its original web page for its Office of Diversity & Inclusion appeared to have been largely scrubbed of the words “diversity” and “inclusion.”

The office was also renamed the Office of Health Equity, driven by the goal “to advance healthcare and improve health for all people.”

At the time, a University spokesperson said updates on the website were “a long-planned evolution” added to better align with NU’s “shared efforts with clinical partners at the Chicago academic medical center regarding community and community engagement.”

Mentions of various, long-standing Black Feinberg affinity groups, including the Daniel Hale Williams Society and Emma Reynolds Circle, were also taken down.

Kellogg School of Management

Almost a week after The Daily reported the change, Kellogg removed its DEI Pathway from its list of course offerings on its website.

The DEI Pathway first debuted in 2021, joining other options, such as entrepreneurship, sustainability and technology management. Each pathway is meant to be a designed sequence of courses geared toward a specific industry or skillset.

The webpage detailing the specifics of the DEI pathway has now been completely erased.

Other diversity-related content, including a press release on a staff member who won a DEI-related award, has also been taken down.

Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences

Weinberg’s website on its commitment to DEI was soon to follow, as The Daily reported on Wednesday.

The website included information on diversity components in the college’s curriculum and existing research findings related to DEI.

McCormick School of Engineering

In similar fashion, McCormick’s DEI website was also removed entirely.

Its old website, boasting that diversity was essential to the school, has seemingly been replaced by a webpage about the school’s “commitment to community and belonging.”

There are no mentions of the words “diversity” or any adjacent terms.

School of Communication

The School of Communication scrubbed its DEI webpage, as reported Wednesday.

The old webpage highlighted initiatives like NU's DEI Task Force and the Black Arts Consortium.

Medill School of Journalism

A day later, Medill took down its web pages centering on its mission statements to DEI.

An article about the hiring of Robert Brown as Medill's Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Outreach seemed no longer accessible.

In an email to The Daily, however, Brown confirmed that he is still employed at NU.

Bienen School of Music

On the same day, Bienen's webpage for DEI went down. Its mission statement went missing on its homepage, too.

School of Education and Social Policy

SESP appeared on Friday to have deleted its "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice" page, which previously contained some links to the school's DEI-related research and civic engagement programs.

The webpage has since been replaced with one entitled "Our Commitments" and elucidates its intellectual mission without any of the former mentions of diversity.

Former links to DEI programs have now been substituted by SESP's general research and community engagement initiatives.

Pritzker Law School

Pritzker appeared to have erased its DEI website, as reported Sunday. It's now been replaced with a web page that explains that NU is now reviewing "policies and programs to ensure we meet all federal and state laws and requirements."

The old webpage contained a list of DEI resources, initiatives and scholarships — now, all gone.

The Graduate School

TGS also removed its web page, as reported Sunday. The old website, containing an extensive diversity statement and initiatives supporting underrepresented students in doctoral programs, has now been replaced with the same pending review webpage.

Other support sites

Support sites for the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, Multicultural Student Affairs and Student Enrichment Services and the Women's Center have been taken down. Site visitors are similarly left with the pending review screen.

Northwestern Career Advancement, NU's Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance, NU Libraries and the Office for Research have all struck out their respective DEI web pages, too.

Clarification: This story has been updated to include that a federal judge largely blocked Trump's executive orders relating to DEI Feb. 21.