



Northern Illinois University

January 13, 2020

Illinois General Assembly
Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives and Secretary of the Senate

This Annual Report is being made under the Illinois Personal Information Protection Act, Section 25 which requires that any “State agency that has submitted a [breach notification] report . . . shall submit an annual report listing all breaches of security . . . and the corrective measures that have been taken to prevent future breaches.”

In 2019, Northern Illinois University experienced a data breach of one (1) record on one (1) occasion. Notification was timely sent to the Illinois General Assembly within five business days of the discovery of the data breach and the individual affected was timely and properly notified.

On Thursday, September 26, 2019, Northern Illinois University [NIU]’s Division of Information Technology confirmed its detection of a data breach from NIU’s College of Education’s Department of Special and Early Education [SPEED]. Earlier that week SPEED’s Office Manager, instead of emailing a blank Personal Data Form, mistakenly emailed a current employee’s completed Personal Data Form to two (2) job applicants.

The personal data breach included:

- First and Last Name
- Social Security Number
- Birthdate
- Direct Deposit information including: Financial Institution, Account Number, Routing Number
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Citizenship

NIU regrets this inadvertent breach of personal data and will continue to implement processes, procedures, and training regimens to avoid such unfortunate incidents in the future.

Sincerely,

Matthew Streb
Chief of Staff to the President
Liaison to the Board of Trustees
Northern Illinois University
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