

Roswell Park employees file racial discrimination lawsuits

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BUFFALO, N.Y. -- Two employees at Roswell Park Cancer Institute have filed lawsuits in U.S. District Court, alleging racial discrimination at the medical center.

According to court documents obtained by Spectrum News, Xantipple Conerly, a call center specialist, listed a number of instances she considered discriminatory, including using offensive language about minorities, and her supervisor requesting she discipline black employees differently

than white employees.

Terry Kearney, a registered nurse who is black, accuses the hospital of disciplining her when she made mistakes but overlooking when white nurses did something wrong.

Kearney says she was put on administrative leave last November and asked to leave the building after making complaints.

Roswell Park released the following statement:

"Roswell Park's diversity and inclusion record is strong. In 2016, 26% of newly hired Roswell Park employees were people of color, reflecting a sixth consecutive year of growth in minority hiring at the Institute. Approximately 40% of these new team members came to us through proactive outreach. We stand by our demonstrated commitment to maintaining an inclusive and welcoming environment for our patients, employees and visitors.

We have devoted substantial resources to our diversity programs under the strong leadership of David Scott, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, who just won an international award for his work in enhancing Roswell Park's diversity and inclusion program.

We value all of our employees, who are united in their dedication to a mission-driven profession. Individuals who care for and support people with cancer are special types of people, called to be of service to others in need. Cancer does not discriminate, and we are reminded every day of the value of every person."