

RICHARD J. DURBIN

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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES
AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

December 8, 2011

The Honorable Arne Duncan
Secretary of Education
Department of Education Building
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

In light of the recent admission by the Career Education Corporation (CECO) that it inflated job placement rates and fell short of its accreditor's requirement, I ask the Department of Education to consider enforcement in this case of its program integrity regulation.

The Department of Education's mission of helping students make sound decisions and preserving the value of the Title IV Federal financial aid programs is a worthy mission that CECO has not taken seriously.

The Department of Education's program integrity regulation of misrepresentation prohibits false, erroneous, or misleading statements directly or indirectly to current students, prospective students, or any member of the public, an accrediting agency, a State agency or the Secretary in regards to educational programs, its financial charges, or the employability of its graduates. Inflating job placement rates seems to be in direct violation of this regulation. Based on facts disclosed to date, CECO appears to have violated this requirement for eligibility for Federal student aid.

The situation also raises concerns about the integrity of job placement rates at CECO's other schools and programs and warrants further investigation of those schools and programs by the Department of Education. Job placement rates are one of the few effective tools we have to determine the quality of education programs. The Department may want to explore meaningful ways to include job placement rates as a requirement for eligibility to participate in Title IV Federal financial aid programs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator