



League of United Latin American Citizens

September 1, 2010

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Secretary Arne Duncan
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Re: Docket ID ED-2010-OPE-0012

Dear Secretary Duncan:

As national executive director of the League of United Latin American Citizens, I am writing on behalf of our organization, whose mission is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States. We recognize the need for higher education in today's society and want to ensure that our youth are not denied opportunities to achieve.

The Department of Education has recently released its proposed rule on gainful employment that will enforce the current statutory requirement that all career education programs that receive federal student aid, under Title IV, must "prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation." We support the regulation and hope that the Administration will take the necessary steps to protect students from the predatory practices of many for-profit institutions of higher education.

In particular, we are concerned with the high-pressure and deceptive sales tactics many of these educational programs utilize to enlarge their enrollment numbers. Examples of overly aggressive recruiting are plentiful. Some for-profit institutions recently made headlines by targeting homeless shelters in their recruitment efforts. Another large for-profit institution paid \$6.5 million to settle a lawsuit brought by the California Attorney General charging "a persistent pattern of unlawful conduct," including the inflation of job placement and starting salary information in order to recruit students to enroll in costly vocational programs, and falsification of records provided to the government.

Students choose colleges and institutions based on a number of factors, including field of study, location, flexibility in class hours and reputation among companies that hire graduates. We must ensure that students attend programs that prepare them for jobs, and that those jobs enable them to repay their students loans. Career education programs that receive federal student aid funds must be held accountable for training students for good jobs without saddling them with unmanageable debt.

We applaud the Administration for taking long overdue steps to enforce the law requiring career education programs to prepare students for gainful employment.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brent Wilkes

Brent Wilkes, National Executive Director