

Marston Academy, continued . . .

A law enforcement agency employee who attended last year has confirmed that his class also attended far less than the web-posted eight weeks of 8am to 5pm hours.

His agency paid \$4500 for his tuition.

That law enforcement agency (and others) will likely soon be looking for a refund on the \$14 per hour (in contract) total they paid, as they were charged for 320 hours of training and were given far less.

No surprise here: APA had not contacted this employee, nor contacted students of other past classes, to verify that the fraudulent shorting of hours has been ongoing for quite some time. There was no investigation at all, other than the one school visit.

APA has not yet revoked the 'accreditation' they gave this school, for one reason: they need the membership dues of APA members to survive, and APA counts on such schools to convince their students to join. If APA were to properly distance itself from this rip-off school, APA would lose dozens of potential members every year. This would cost APA thousand of dollars per year, so just like they allow continued membership of phony PhDs and other fraudsters, they won't be punishing a school that has been defrauding the public.

Guaranteed: the school will remain 'accredited' by APA.

The only chance for proper handling (revocation, student reimbursement, and so on) falls to CA's school licensing bureau, and they are currently without the funding needed.

**Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education**

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February 15, 2007

Dear School Owner:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with some general information about the status of the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (Bureau) within the California Department of Consumer Affairs (Department). As many of you know, the Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Reform Act (Act) will become inoperative on July 1, 2007 unless another piece of legislation is passed by the State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger. While this impending sunset does provide challenges for the Bureau, it is also a strong incentive for all parties -- the Administration, the Legislature, consumer advocates and schools, such as yours, to work together to create a new and more effective Act to guide the administration of this important program.

In the attached veto message of Assembly Bill 2810, the Governor called for comprehensive reform and committed to working with the Legislature. We expect that legislation will be introduced shortly. While we cannot predict what will ultimately happen with the Act or the Bureau, we can provide you with as much information as we know to date. We will make every effort to keep you updated and encourage you to go to the Bureau's website at [www.bppve.ca.gov](http://www.bppve.ca.gov) for monthly updates.

Naturally, the Department is very concerned about what could potentially happen should the Act become inoperative July 1, 2007 and no statutory framework is in place. We contacted the United States Department of Education (USDOE) to confirm that Title IV financial aid will not be adversely impacted should the Act become inoperative. USDOE's letter is attached for your review.

Current law (Education Code section 94999) provides for a sunset date of July 1, 2007 and a repeal date of January 1, 2008. This means that, as of July 1, 2007, institutions will no longer need to seek or maintain approval or registration from the Bureau to operate a private postsecondary educational institution legally in California. However, the current Act remains in full force and effect until July 1. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act is grounds for discipline under existing law and may affect licensure under future law as well. We also recommend that you review your educational programs with other related state or federal agencies to ensure that the cessation of the Bureau's functions will not otherwise impact the educational programs you offer. It is my understanding that concerns regarding the ability of candidates attending Bureau-approved institutions to qualify to sit for various DCA board licensing examinations will be addressed legislatively this year.

The Department has been working on a plan to assist those employed by the Bureau and will be redirecting interested staff to other positions within the Department over the next few months. The Bureau's management staff, working with the Department, is developing a workload plan to maintain the critical aspects of the Bureau's operations.

We hope the information provided will help clarify what the status of the Bureau and Act is, what you can expect in the next few months, and how the pending sunset date will impact your school and students. Should you have any questions, please feel free to email the Bureau at [bppve@dca.ca.gov](mailto:bppve@dca.ca.gov). In closing, it is our sincerest hope that we can achieve meaningful reform for the private postsecondary and vocational education program, its students and the schools that provide education in this state.

Sincerely,

BARBARA WARD  
Bureau Chief

Attachments (2)