



Office of the Inspector General

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Inspector General's Investigation Leads to Plea Agreement with Whittier Regional Vocational-Technical School Employee, December 2009

The Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General and the U.S. Department of Education, Office of the Inspector General, Investigation Services, joint investigative efforts have resulted in JOSEPH GIORDANO, age 63, of Bradford, MA, pleading guilty, in United States District Court, District of Massachusetts, Boston, to making a false statement.

On December 10, 2009, Giordano pled guilty to a single count of making a false statement (18 U.S.C. § 1001) to the federal government. The false statement relates to a scheme in which Giordano used his position, as the Coordinator of Community Education at Whittier Regional Vocational-Technical School ("Whittier"), to obtain funds provided to the school under federal grants. Giordano did this by creating a company, MDG Education which he controlled; Giordano approved invoices from MDG to Whittier for services relating to faculty enrichment courses. MDG was not a Whittier-approved vendor. The services supposedly provided by MDG were services that Giordano typically performed in the course of his usual duties for Whittier. Giordano, through MDG, billed Whittier at a higher rate than Whittier would have paid for faculty enrichment courses had there been no MDG involvement.

As part of a plea agreement with the federal government, Giordano has agreed to pay back \$15,049.00 that he wrongfully obtained, plus a \$10,000.00 fine. In addition, Giordano agreed to a three-year period of probation.

Giordano will be sentenced in March of 2010.