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Bulletin #10 - American Career Institute School Closure

TO: Current and Former Students of the American Career Institute (ACI) located at
703 Granite Street, Braintree, MA
186 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge, MA
125 Newbury Street, Framingham, MA
365 Caldwell Drive, Springfield, MA
10 State Street, Woburn, MA

DATE: January 14, 2014

RE: *Status of Student Claims for Refunds, Loan Relief for Veterans of the Iraq and
Afghanistan Wars and Family Members, American International College Students, and
the Attorney General's Lawsuit Against ACI*

On January 9, 2013, the Division of Professional Licensure (DPL) received notice that the American Career Institute (ACI) ceased operating in Massachusetts. DPL is continuing its investigation of the matter and is coordinating these efforts with other state and federal agencies. This bulletin, the tenth released by DPL, provides updates on the following information:

- Status of Student Claims for Refunds;
- Loan Relief for Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars and Family Members;
- American International College Students; and
- Attorney General's Lawsuit Against ACI.

Status of Student Claims for Refunds:

The deadline by which students could file claims for refunds was 5:00 p.m. on October 4, 2013. Any claims received after this deadline will only be processed if funds remain after payment of timely filed claims.

In the process of reviewing student claims submitted prior to the deadline, DPL discovered that in several cases more documentation from ACI is needed. DPL has requested this information from ACI and is currently waiting to receive these documents. Pending the receipt of this information and the completion of the review of timely filed claims, DPL anticipates that the payment of valid claims will not be made for several more months.



In addition to the claims process, students are advised that, as a result of a [court order](#) issued by a federal district court judge in August, new guidelines have been implemented to provide students with greater ability to address any outstanding financial obligations they may still have to ACI. The order mandates a court-appointed Receiver to work with DPL to ensure that students only pay for the education that they actually received while attending the school, and to ensure that students can discharge any financial obligations related to education or training that they did not receive because of the school's closure. For more information on the order, please consult DPL's [press release](#) announcing the guidelines.

DPL remains committed to identifying other remedies for former ACI students affected by the closure of the school, and will continue to work with the court-appointed Receiver and other state and federal agencies regarding the closure. If and when additional remedies become available, DPL will make every effort to notify students of these resources.

Loan Relief for Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars and Family Members:

DPL has been advised that veterans and their family members who incurred educational debt at ACI may be eligible for up to \$5,000 of loan relief through a program administered by a private organization called the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA). To be eligible, a student: must be a veteran of Iraq or Afghanistan who served at least 60 days after September 11, 2001; must have applied for and accepted all eligible federal, state and institutional need-based grants; and, must have used all available military educational benefits. Spouses and children of a veteran of Iraq or Afghanistan who are using the GI Bill transferred from the veteran may also qualify.

If you think you may be eligible for this assistance, please visit the IAVA'S Veterans' [Student Loan Relief Fund](#) to submit an application.

American International College Students:

DPL has received several claims for tuition refunds from students who attended ACI when it was affiliated with American International College (College). DPL is working with both the College and ACI to retrieve student documents needed to process and verify these claims.

Attorney General's Lawsuit Against ACI:

On November 21, 2013, the Attorney General's Office filed a [lawsuit](#) against ACI in Suffolk Superior Court. The lawsuit alleges that ACI "falsified documents and forged student signatures to maintain their accreditation and to continue to receive student loan proceeds, enrolled students who did not meet minimum qualifications, and then failed to provide students the education for which they incurred significant debts." The lawsuit is seeking restitution for tuition and fee payments made by students at ACI. The lawsuit is on-going and DPL will update students as relevant information becomes available.

Questions:

Students with questions about the claims process may call 617-727-5811, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.