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Bulletin #2 – 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 11, 2013

RE: Update on School Closure

On January 9, 2013, the Massachusetts 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 #2 provides updated information.

Student Information:

DPL has received from ACI information identifying 1,395 students affected by the closure, and will use that information to reach out to those students directly next week. Students are invited to contact DPL in order to ensure that we have correct contact information. We have set up a new email address for this purpose: dplschool.closure@state.ma.us. Alternatively, students can contact the DPL Occupational Schools Hotline at: 617-727-6917. Students are advised to check the DPL Occupational Schools web site as well: www.mass.gov/dpl/schools.

Recourse for Students Affected by the Closure:

DPL is working to provide recourse for ACI students. Specifically, three options are being explored:

- **“Teach-Out” Opportunities:** Under a “teach-out” option, ACI students could complete their programs of study through other occupational schools that offer programs similar to those offered by ACI. DPL is working with other occupational schools on this option. *(At this time, students should not attempt to enroll in another occupational school expecting to be able to complete their education through a “teach-out” option.)*



- **Student Loan Discharges:** Students who have private or federal student loans may be eligible to have their loans partially or fully discharged. The discharge would cover loan proceeds allocated to the cost of programs or courses that a student has not yet completed. DPL has been in contact with the U.S. Department of Education to determine how this process could work for ACI students receiving federal loans.
- **Reimbursements:** Students who have paid for programs or courses with private funds and who do not wish to participate in a “teach-out” program may be eligible to receive a limited reimbursement.

Students Attending ACI Through Career Re-Training Programs:

Students who were attending ACI through career re-training programs and receive unemployment benefits may be able to continue receiving these benefits. DPL has been in contact with the Massachusetts Department of Career Services (DCS) and the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA), who are coordinating with participating career centers and other entities to determine the status of students’ benefits. This includes:

- **Students Receiving either Unemployment Insurance (UI) or Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC):** Students receiving UI or UEC benefits can continue to claim them by conducting job searches until suitable job training programs have been identified.
- **Students Receiving “Section 30” Benefits:** Students receiving these types of benefits should continue to receive them unless otherwise notified. Please continue to check these bulletins for more information.

Students Attending ACI through Veterans Benefits Programs:

DPL has been in contact with the Massachusetts Department of Veterans’ Services through the Department of Higher Education, to determine the status of students’ benefits.

Current Students Completing Externship Programs:

For students who have completed their coursework but were in the process of completing an externship, DPL has contacted ACI regarding the possibility of having students complete their externships.

Students Who Completed Programs, But Have Not Yet Received Certificates of Completion:

DPL has contacted ACI about obtaining copies of these certificates.

Information for Former Students:

DPL has received a number of inquiries from former students regarding the impact of the closure on the credentials they received, as well as the repayment of their loans. Any certificates of completion awarded by ACI to former students remain valid. In addition, former students with

outstanding loans should continue to repay them. Failure to do so will negatively affect students' credit, and may affect their ability to obtain other loans or financing in the future.

Next Steps:

DPL will continue to post updated bulletin on this website as more information become available. Please be sure to consult all bulletins. Should you have any questions or concerns in the interim, please e-mail us at dplschoollclosure@state.ma.us or call DPL's Occupational Schools Hotline at 617-727-6917.