



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director

Institutions that may be operating illegally in South Carolina Or operating illegally elsewhere and enrolling residents of South Carolina (updated 7/7/2011)

THIS IS A DIPLOMA MILL – DO NOT SEND MONEY – SCAM OPERATING ILLEGALLY

Woodfield High School/ Woodfield University (on-line) <http://www.woodfieldhighschool.com/>

January 2011 According to several callers the school claims to be based in Greenwood, SC. Not accredited by a U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting agency. Claims accreditation from Universal Accreditation Agency for Online Education, likely accreditation mill. Postsecondary institutions will not accept the high school diploma as a prerequisite for enrollment.

January 12, 2011, a chat recruiter confirmed the school is in Greenwood, SC, and its president is Dr. Eric Lindquist. Commission staff posted an inquiry, but did not receive a reply. It included 'cease and desist' language.

April 6, 2011, Renea Eshleman received a follow-up recruiting message from care@woodfielduniversity.com to which she replied with illegally operating information.

June 7, 2011, call from a resident in England who paid \$1,600 to the school two months ago and has been trying to get a refund. Chat informed her that the bank account was closed and there is no way for a refund at this time. She will provide documentation to CHE.

ABC Bartending School; Dana Nelson, Chris Nelson; www.abcbartendingschool.com ; 205 Pete Hollis Blvd., Greenville, SC 29609; 864.848.9655

Original license date 7/12/94; licensed revoked 1/5/07; surety bond cancelled; continues to operate illegally (4/21/08), offering "certification," CHE received complaints of overcharges. Update 2/2010 additional complaints about the school not making refunds.

Petmasters Grooming School; www.scpetmastersgroomingschool.com; 843.851.1825; 10125 Dorchester Rd., Suite A-3; Summerville, SC 29485 (Grooming All Breeds).

Advertising; web site; cease and desist notice sent 11/8/07, 5/20/08. Sherry Ortiz says not offering course; web site no longer operating

Aviation and Electronic Schools of America, James P. Doyle, Owner www.aesa.com; 111 South Railroad Street, Colfax, CA 95713; 804 Pier View Way, Suite 100, Oceanside, CA 92054

2008 education service officer at MCAS, Beaufort, contacted CHE about the school; determined at that time that the school enrolled sponsored students and did not enroll self-pay students. Therefore, it was exempt from the oversight of the SC Commission on Higher Education.

3/11/2010, contact from MCAS with evidence that school may be charging fees to the students and direct pay. Issued cease and desist e-mail with initial licensing packet.

3/24/2010 Jim Doyle contacted the Commission and said AESA is not taking payments from students enrolled in South Carolina and continues to be exempt from the oversight of the Commission.

4/26/2010 CHE received an application for initial license missing several of the require exhibits.

Beaufort Dog; 1307 Boundary St., Beaufort, SC. Kelley Blackston, Owner

Originally licensed 12/1/08 to offer dog groomer training; discontinued training program after split with co-

owner and signed non-compete agreement with co-owner. Enrolled students prior to licensure and has not provided refunds.
4/7/09 Received notification of Beaufort Dog offering dog grooming course in Ridgeland; sent cease and desist.
8/24/09 Received notification and advertisement of Beaufort Dog offering course in Ridgeland; sent cease and desist.

Agapé Health Services; 7232 Broad River Rd., Columbia, SC 29063. Alonzo Johnson, Owner
www.agapehealthservice.com/academy/

8/24/09 Requested initial licensure packet
9/15/09 Requested initial licensure packet
2/5/2010 CHE received complaint from DHHS concerning self-pay student enrolled at Agape who had paid for national certification exam in December but had not received test date and was having difficulty receiving answers from staff about her test date. CHE mailed cease and desist and initial licensure packet.
2/5/2010 Received notification from Dr. Johnson that Agape will no longer enroll self-pay students.

Stratford Career Institute – confirmation of illegal operations

**Web site shows: Stratford Career Institute, 12 Champlain Commons, P.O. Box 1560, St. Albans VT 05478-5560
Toll-free: 1-800-363-0058 and Canada 8675 Darnley Rd, Town of Mount Royal, QC H4T 1X2 Toll-free: 1-800-363-0058**

2/16/10 inquiry from a graduate of a high school diploma program through Stratford Career Institute (www.scitraining.com). Postsecondary institutions will not accept the diploma as a prerequisite for enrollment. Research revealed that the school is operating illegally in New York Champlain, NY address in advertising, but it's only a post office box. Graduates of programs that require a clinical (nurse aide and cosmetology) will not be eligible for licensing.

Preliminary to a hearing scheduled in Pennsylvania for May 2009 the school signed an agreement to cease advertising in PA.

One address in St Albans, Vermont, is a storefront for mail only. The Montreal office warned VT licensing personnel to beware of slander. It has been turned over to the Attorney General's Office per Vermont statute.

One address is Montréal, Québec, Canada. It is definitely not a recognized high school diploma granting institution. The provincial authorities have been advised. Trade programs have not been quality assured by the Ministry of Education of the province of Québec.

American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians Cease and Desist issued 3/25/2010 ASPT North Charleston, SC 29418 Phone (843)767-2464 Fax (843)767-2465

E-Mail: asptcharleston@knology.net Website: http://96.36.117.186/registration_form.pdf

In 1996 the Commission on Higher Education communicated with Ralph Maxwell about the training and certification services offered at ASPT from Greenville. The contention of Maxwell was that the training was distance learning and not within the jurisdiction of CHE because it was continuing education offered only to individuals who were already employed in the medical field and who were members of ASPT. ASPT filed a suit against CHE and asked the court to determine it exempt from the Commission's oversight. The suit was dismissed by agreement of the attorneys for Maxwells and AG with CHE retaining the authority to proceed with injunction from ASPT with additional evidence that the organization offered vocational training without enforcing its requirements for employment in the field.

In May 2009 Helen Maxwell contacted CHE about licensure to offer EKG and other training programs; however, she did not apply for a license. March 25, 2010, a student enrolled in EKG and Patient Care Technician submitted a complaint about the school. It made a full refund to the student. CHE issued a letter to cease and desist; also, provided another packet for initial licensure. 4/6/2010 Cathy Williamson, director at the Charleston location, called and said they are preparing the application materials. Updated 4/7/10. CHE received an application for initial license on April 13, 2010, and provided initial feedback on April 22, 2010. April 28, 2010, discussion with attorney for Maxwell about licensing requirements. Review of application suspended until information from AG that the character requirements for eligibility would exclude eligibility for licensure. 5/24/10 CHE executive staff reviewing the options.

8/5/2010 CHE received AG's opinion confirming that CHE has authority to deny licensure based on the Maxwells having owned a school for which SC Department of Education revoked the license

8/12/2010 CHE notified attorney for Maxwells of denial of licensure for Helen and/or Ralph Maxwell as owners based on failure to meet the "good reputation" criteria in CHE regulation 62-6.

9/13/2010 Richard Sisco, landlord of ASPT, called and asked for documentation that CHE would not license the school. They are using it as a reason to break the lease on the facilities.

10/12/2010 Roman Hammes, attorney, notified CHE that he no longer represents the Maxwells and it is his understanding that they will not contest the decision of CHE to deny licensure.

WARP University, 2132 Carolina Place Drive, Fort Mill, SC 29708 Patrick LaRive, CEO/President; Lynn LaRive
www.warpuniversity.org

Sent e-mail inquiry April 28 cease and desist April 29, 2010, RRR acknowledged delivery May 3, 2010. May 24, 2010, reviewed web site; detected no changes in information. The terms "college" and "university" are protected under SC Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, Section 59-58-60, so that use of "university" must be approved by the Commission and used by institutions awarding graduate degrees and "college" is reserved to degree-granting institutions.

7/27/2010 UPDATE. Inquiry from Workforce Investment One Stop. They have a complaint from a former student; this confirms Warp enrolls self-pay students. She will get permission from student to send the complaint to CHE for follow-up.

8/30/2010 Publication of press release in *Midlands Biz* about Warp, which they immediately removed upon notification of CHE that the school is operating illegally.

9/17/2010 Patrick LaRive informed CHE that he will move his businesses to NC.

10/4/2010 Photos show clearly still operating Warp University sign on window.

11/2010 Received complaints from several students requesting refunds because the school was operating illegally and mislead students about jobs. Sent to LaRive for response.

1/12/2011 Patrick LaRive notified CHE they are preparing to file for bankruptcy. Students reported that the LaRives closed their businesses and moved out of the state.

5/2011 two additional complaints from former students filed with the Commission. Both students asked for refunds of tuition they paid. Forwarded complaints to Patrick LaRive and he responded that he has a meeting with an attorney on Monday, May 23, and will respond to the complaints. He asked that CHE remove the WARP information from the illegally operating list.



Pathway Medical Training Service, 1150 Broad St., Sumter, SC 29150. Edith Davis, Owner

7/20/2010 Submitted incomplete application for licensure

9/22/2010 CHE provided feedback for application

12/14/2010 CHE received complaint call from student; student dissatisfied with training, clinical, does not feel prepared for certification exam

12/22/2010 CHE sent cease and desist letter to institution

Kepler Space University Online <http://keplerspaceuniversity.com/>

12/30/2010 Robert L. (Bob) Frantz, President, requested of the SC Commission on Higher Education a packet for initial licensure for Kepler Space University, 198 Okatie Village Dr., Ste 103, PMB#301, Bluffton, SC 29909, phone 703.728.6482. Robert M. Krone is the Provost. The unaccredited school operating without a license; the Commission issued a cease and desist letter on 12/31/2010. Several indicators: SC site without licensure; inappropriate name of the school because the programs listed on the web site are not 'space' related, but are psychology, policy, education (not for certification), science and technology, business, and high school; material shows "since 1621" obviously a misrepresentation; courses link to Ashburn University; FaceBook page also includes similar information.

1/12/2011 the web site has been revised to remove the South Carolina address but Bob Frantz has not been able to amend the FaceBook page. He plans to submit a letter of intent and subsequently apply for licensure.

Thomas Healthcare Institute, www.thcinstitute.com, Greenville, SC

1/2010 school officials submitted an incomplete application for licensure

2/2010 school officials stated school was not operating in Greenville

5/9/2011 CHE received complaint from student who enrolled in medical assisting course at THCI in Greenville, SC in May 2010

5/11/2011 CHE sent cease and desist to THCI

MedTech, 3300-B Kay St., Columbia, SC 29210. Scarlett Johns, Owner

6/25/2010 Owner met with Commission staff to receive initial license application; WIA was removing MedTech from Eligible Training Provider list because school was not licensed

6/22/2011 Received call at CHE that Ms. Johns is sending self-pay phlebotomy students to clinical

6/23/2011 Sent cease and desist to MedTech

The Commission licenses institutions that operate or solicit in South Carolina if the training prepares the students for a predetermined occupation or if the courses are credit-bearing. There are exemptions to the Commission's licensing authority. Contact CHE licensing staff for more information.

Nonpublic Postsecondary Institution License Act <http://www.scstatehouse.net/code/t59c058.htm>

CHE Regulations <http://www.scstatehouse.net/coderegs/c062.htm>.

For more information, contact CHE Nonpublic Postsecondary Institution Licensing staff members:

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