

Senator Tom Harkin
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

July 7, 2010

Dear Senator Harkin:

I am writing to share my experience as an instructor teaching criminal justice at UEI College in Huntington Park, California. I am an honorably retired Lieutenant and current Reserve Deputy with the Los Angeles County Sheriff department. I currently teach criminal justice at another college. I was recruited by UEI College to open their criminal justice program and, after witnessing shocking practices at the school, left on my own for a better position.

I was given no formal training to start the CJ program, and only met with a program chair for about 20 minutes total. The only directions I was given were to show up Monday to start the job. There were no standards to be an instructor. My replacement that UEI College hired had no criminal justice experience. The only materials I was given were a classroom, projector, computer, and a textbook.

At the admissions stage, students were sold a nine month "certificate program" after which they received a certificate in criminal justice. I had anywhere from 21 to 25 students packed in a small classroom, and the class met 5 days per week for 4 hours at a time. Each class lasted 100 hours, or 5 weeks, and then a new class would begin. There were 9 total classes in the program. The goal of the teacher was to get the students through the program and not have dropouts. Teachers were held accountable for dropouts and advised that too many dropouts could lead to termination.

Around 90 percent of students in the CJ program were Hispanic from local neighborhoods, and many were ESL students. UEI seemed to admit anybody, regardless of their ability to actually get a job afterwards in the criminal justice field. About 80 percent of the students I taught would NEVER even qualify for a job in the criminal justice field because they would not be able to pass a background check, or had poor learning skills. I had students without high school diplomas in my class, students who had been convicted of crimes including felonies, students who admitted to past and present drug use, students who admitted being active gang members, and students who were under 18, which is a violation of UEI policy. I remember in particular that the school admitted one student who did not speak English.

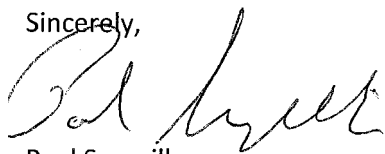
UEI Admissions Representatives sold these students the criminal justice program knowing most of them could never get a job in this field. To try to prevent that I asked that the criminal justice students be screened or fingerprinted, but the school administration declined.

The real problem I saw was that there was no one in Career Services working on getting these students jobs during my tenure. I have kept in contact with some students and so far I believe none of my former CJ students have been able to obtain a job in the field. If they complain, UEI gets them security guard positions, which could have been obtained without spending thousands of dollars on a UEI certificate. It

is my opinion that the entire CJ program is a fraud and UEI knows full well that most of the students will not be able to get positions in any CJ field.

Another matter that troubled me was that UEI did not comply with the Clery Act, which requires institutions of higher education to keep and disclose information about crime on and near their campuses. Crimes were not reported, and instructors were advised to call the Dean of education if there was a problem in the classroom, even though many of these problems were criminal acts. Many instructors confided in me that criminal acts were common and they were very afraid for their safety. The school restrooms were covered in gang graffiti at all times. When the graffiti was painted over, it just came back. UEI did not want to address the problem of gang activity in the school because many of their students were gang members or gang associates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Scauzillo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Paul Scauzillo