

Credentials Fraud & Diploma Mills: A Global & Growing Problem

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Presenters



Chair: Yuriko Bassett
Assistant Director of Intern'l Enrollment Services
Azusa Pacific University

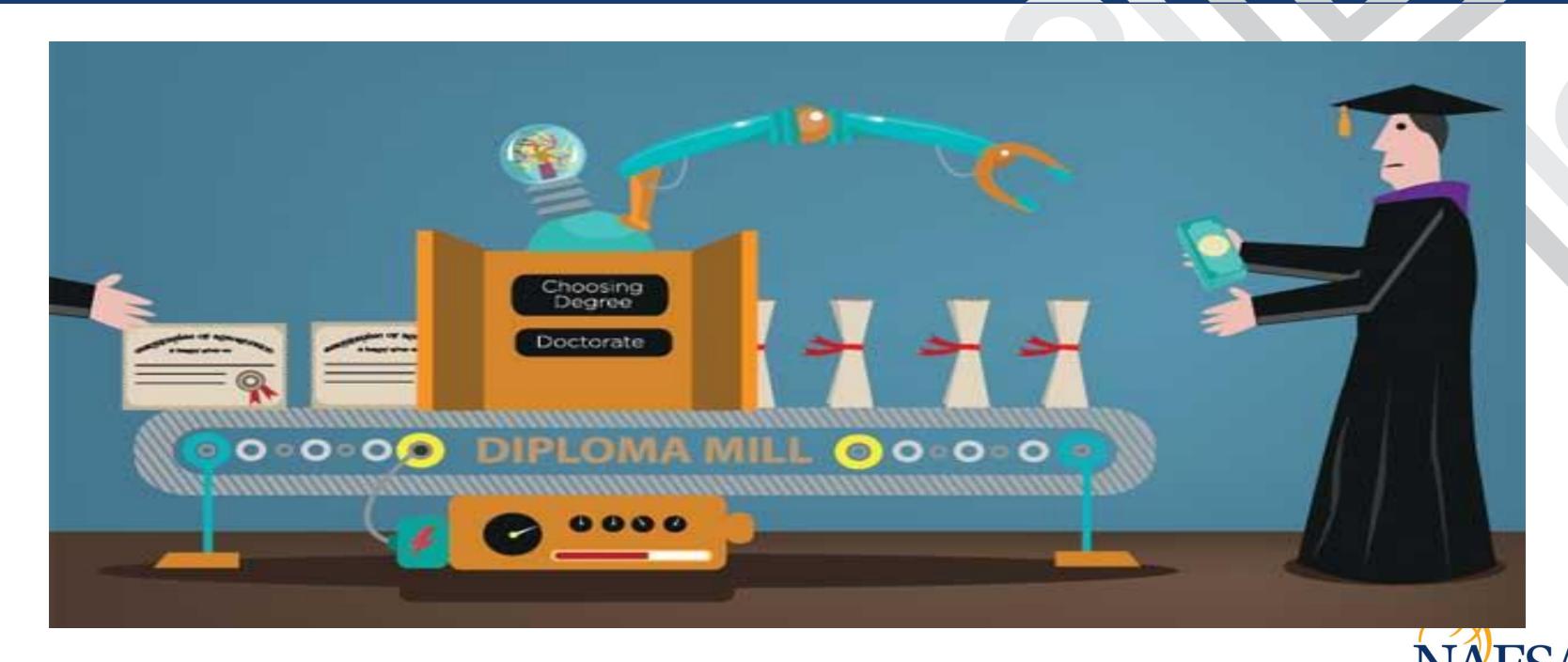


Jasmin Saidi-Kuehnert
President & CEO
Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute, Inc.





What is a Diploma/Degree Mill?



Diploma/Degree Mill defined

Diploma/Degree Mill is an entity that—

 offers, for a fee, degrees, diplomas, or certificates, requiring completion of little or no education or coursework,

and

 lacks accreditation by an accrediting agency or association that is recognized as an accrediting agency or association of institutions of higher education

Source: The Higher Education Opportunity Act



What is an Accreditation/Recognition Mill?





An Accreditation/Recognition Mill defined

Accreditation/Recognition Mill is an entity that -

- systematically misrepresents a quality-control, vetting and/or approval process for academic / training institutions and programs without proper underlying due diligence and/or regulatory compliance.
- may operate at any educational level (secondary, post-secondary, vocational, etc.)

Source: The GRADE Method™ https://www.gradedatabase.com/#/method

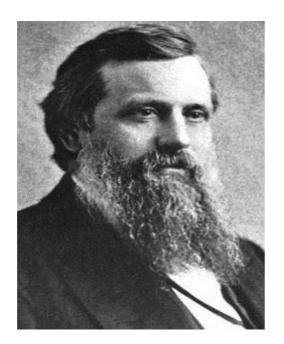
Link to Accreditation Mills: https://www.geteducated.com/college-degree-mills/204-fake-agencies-for-college-accreditation





Question: Who called Diploma Mills a "disgrace to American Education"?





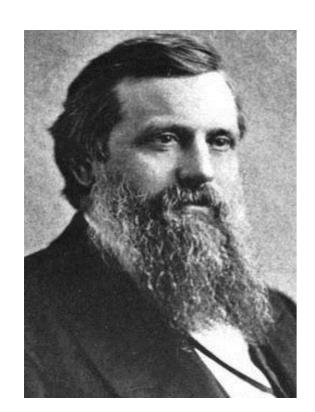




- a. President Donald Trump
- b. John Eaton Jr. (former U.S. Commissioner on Education)
- c. Former President Barack Obama
- d. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos



Answer:



b. John Eaton, Jr. (US Commissioner on Education from 1870-1886)*

*Council for Higher Education Administration (CHEA) http://www.chea.org/degreemills/frmPaper.htm



Why are Diploma Mills a Problem?

The Harsh Truth: People Lie





The Cold Facts

- 56% of people lie on their resumes
- 44% of resumes include misrepresentations on degrees earned
- Only 25% of individuals know its illegal to lie about qualifications
- 70% college grads admit to lying on resumes to get the job
- 28% of managers surveyed in 2015 by Career Builder said they caught candidates claiming fake degrees

Sources:

https://www.forbes.com/2006/05/20/resume-lies work cx kdt 06work 0523lies.html

http://time.com/money/3995981/how-many-people-lie-resumes/

http://www.cheatsheet.com/money-career/5-things-people-lie-about-on-their-resume.html/?a=viewall



Top 7 Resume Lies

TOP 7 RÉSUMÉ LIES

Exaggerated job titles and responsibilities

Falsification of education credentials

Covering up criminal records

Inflated salaries

Falsified dates of employment

Falsification of professional license /credentials

Fake experience at 'ghost' companies

What do people most lie about on their resumes?



33%

29%

27%

21%

7%

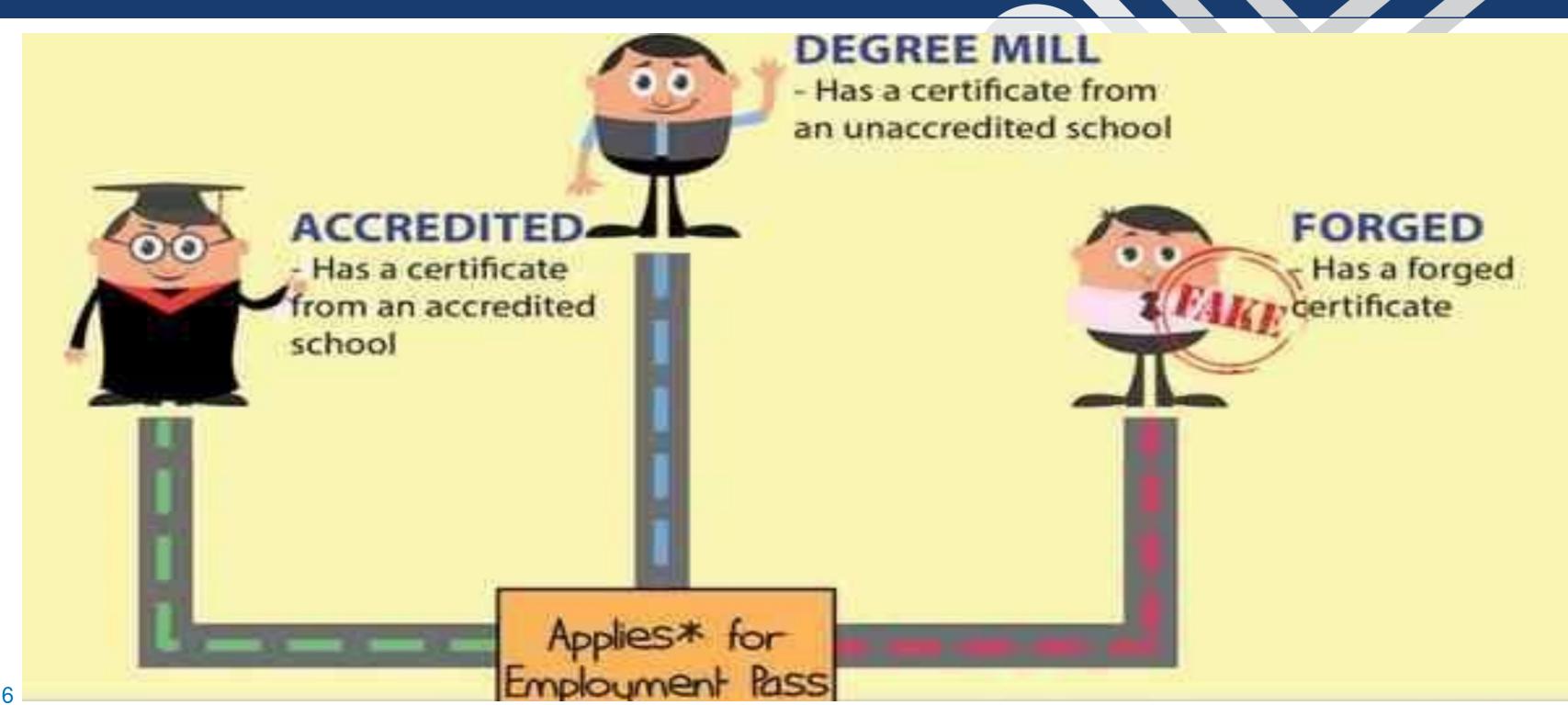
3%

inflated salary claims inaccurate job descriptions

altered employment dates falsified references fraudulent degrees job applicants who have a felony record job applicants who have a misdemeanor record



Focus: Degree/Diploma Mill





Diploma Mills: A Domestic Problem

- Dates back to the 1862 Morrill Land Grant Act and the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944 (GI Bill)
- Billion dollar industry
- More than 1,008 diploma mills operating, or claiming to operate, within the United States
- Currently, the U.S. is the world leader in diploma mills
- Fake diplomas are often used by federal and state job applicants to get higher pay grade or pay raises. U.S. taxpayers pay the high cost.



Top 10 US States with Degree Mills

California 147 mills

Hawaii 98 mills

Washington 91 mills

Florida 94 mills

Texas 68 mills

New York 55 mills

Arizona 44 mills

Louisiana 42 mills

Delaware 37 mills

District of Columbia 33 mills

Source: 2011 Report by Accredibase (UK-based Verification & Background Screening Service)

http://www.sourcewire.com/news/63290/accredibase-report-for-2011-reveals-48-increase-in-fake-universities#.Vh1PA24nl4k



Diploma Mills: A Global Problem

United Kingdom ranks 1st in Europe as the hub for diploma mills (57% of European diploma mills operate in the UK)

Pakistan hub for the biggest counterfeiting ring run by Axact

Australia large number of candidates applying for medical professions determined to have fake medical degrees

http://www.meldmagazine.com.au/2016/03/australian-universities-crackdown-credential-fraud/

Singapore reporting a recent jump in fake diplomas

http://www.meldmagazine.com.au/2016/03/australian-universities-crackdown-credential-fraud/

Diploma Mills: A global Problem

UAE a sting operation conducted in 2014 by reporters at Gulf News, discovered 10 UAE based firms (with headquarters in India & Pakistan) selling fake diplomas and transcripts http://gulfnews.com/news/uae/crime/fake-degree-racket-in-uae-exposed-1.1339968

Qatar & GCC taking legal action and doling out harsh sentences against anyone caught with fake diplomas applying for employment/employment visa/immigration http://www.qatarday.com/blog/information/fake-degree-users-to-face-tough-action/19278

Kenya is experiencing a surge of fake diplomas http://www.nation.co.ke/news/education/fake-university-papers-racket-unearthed/2643604-3856348-13af4qnz/



Top 10 European Countries with Diploma Mills

United Kingdom 339 mills

Italy 43 mills

Belgium 36 mills

Netherlands 34 mills

Switzerland 21 mills

Ireland 20 mills

Germany 13 mills

Spain 12 mills

Austria 11 mills

France 11 mills





Why are there Degree/Diploma Mills?

1. Supply and Demand

- Competitive domestic and global job market encourages more job applicants to get degrees from diploma mills without having to attend any classes and complete coursework.
- Qualifying for state and federal government jobs in the U.S., pay rankings and raises require college degrees and higher positions required advanced degrees such as Master's and Doctorates.



Why are there Degree/Diploma Mills?

2. Limited/No Regulation

- Absence of regulation on a federal level and lax or no regulation at the state levels.
- The USDOE does not have direct power to regulate educational institutions and the quality of their degrees.
- No federal law that directly classifies diploma mill operations or someone obtaining such a degree as illegal.
- Loop holes that allow a diploma mill to operate as a tax-exempt religious institution without accreditation by one of the recognized accreditation boards
- The term "university" is not legally protected on a national level





Real or Fake

- Central European University
- Regis University
- St. Regis University
- Standford University
- Suffield University
- Suffolk University
- University of Beverly Hills
- University of Central Europe
- Vancouver University
- Walesbridge University







Diploma Mills: The Crime Scene

Diploma Mills: The Crime Scene



Villains

Victims



Diploma Mills: The Villains



Perpatrators:

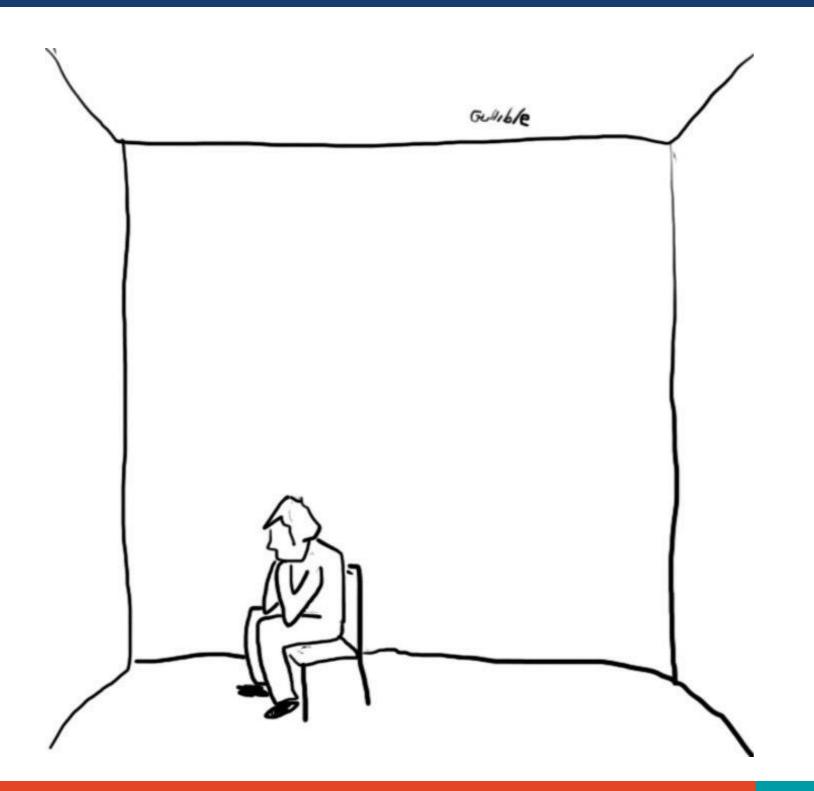
- People running the mills
- People who knowingly buy and use fake diplomas

Complicit actors:

- Law Enforcement (too slow/don't care)
- Media (not much investigative reporting)



Diploma Mills: The (Innocent) Victims



- Unsuspecting buyers
- Employers
- Public
- Legitimate Schools



Diploma Mill Operators aka The Villains

Diploma Mill #1: Axact (Karachi, Pakistan)

Axact (Karachi, Pakistan) – As CEO of Axact, Shoaib Shaikh (ctr in photo) ran the largest million dollar a year diploma and accreditation mill in Karachi, Pakistan.

Shoaib Shaikh was charged with tax evasion after Axact offices were raided by Pakistani law enforcement and its CEO and executives were arrested.











has received upon nomination of the Faculty and by authority of the trustees of Grant Cown University the degree of

Master of Business Administration

in Finance & Business Management

in recognition of fulfillment of the requirements

of that degree. Presented on the tenth day of June, two thousand and fourteen.

President





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Study Options

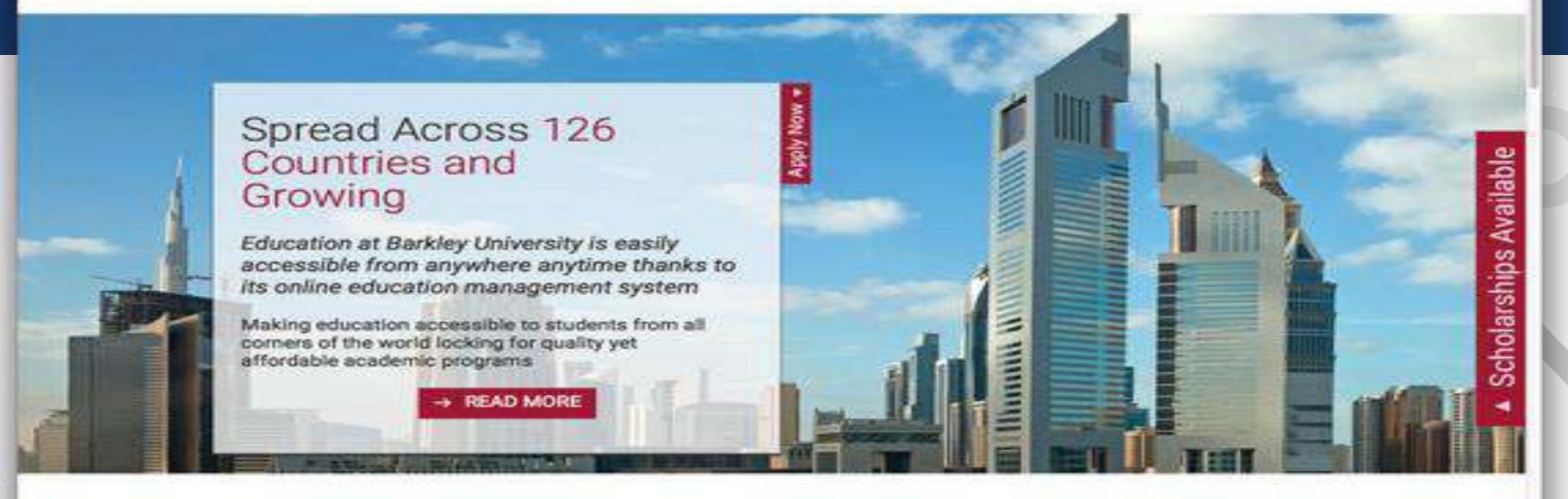
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Admission Requirements

United States of America



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greetings:

I Certify That the document hereunto annexed is under the Seal of the District of Columbia, and that such Seal is entitled to full faith and credit.*

In testimony whereof, I, John F. Kerry, Secretary of State, have hereunto caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the Assistant Authentication Officer, of the said Department, at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this eighteenth day of June, 2014.

Assistant Authentication Officer.

Department of State



Civel Proceeders.

Diploma Mill #2: St. Regis University (US & Liberia)

St. Regis University – Dixie & Steven Randock operated approximately 120 connected institutions from about 1999 until 2005, most famously known for **St. Regis University** in **Liberia**. Which was shut down by U.S. government authorities.

Richard Novak (photo on right) and the Randocks were arrested; Novak agreed to cooperate as a government witness. The Randocks pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and in 2008, were each sentenced to 3

years in federal prison.







REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



National Commission For Higher Education Monrovia, Liberia

> Certificate Of Recognition & Accreditation To Operate Higher Education Institution In The Republic Of Liberia

> > This is to certify that

SAINT REGIS UNIVERSITY

Operated by the National board of education, Inc., an International Business Corporation with branch campuses in Liberia, has met the criteria set forth by the National Commission of Higher Education to operate an institution of higher learning in the Republic of Liberia, is hereby granted this accreditation. Valid for a period of two years as of date of issuance.

Given under my hand and seal this 28th day of AUGUST in the year 2002 A.D.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Promoting Quality and Equal Higher Education Opportunity"



Diploma Mill #3: Trump University

Trump University – offered graduate, post-graduate and doctoral degree programs, no regional accreditation, under investigation for fraud, and sued by NY Attorney General for operating as a university without a state charter. Agreed to \$25 million settlement.





Diploma Mill #4: Legacy Business School

Legacy Business School – Kris Jenner is its Chairman of the Board, offers "white-glove executive elite" business education for \$100,500.00. Office is in Trump Tower, NYC. https://legacyny.org (LBS is branded European School of Economics (ESE)—a for-profit organization that has been sued a dozen times in U.S. alone since 2006 for outstanding debts.

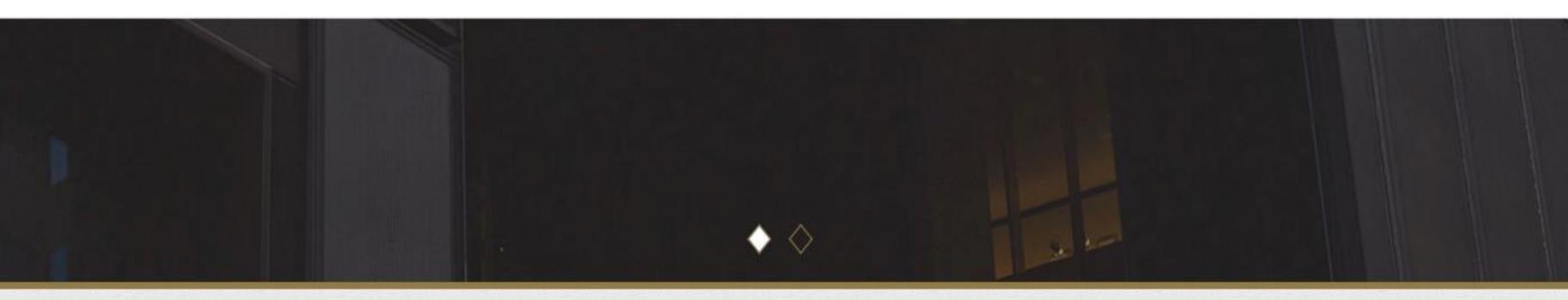








EXPLORE LEGACY CONTACT



LEGACY BUSINESS SCHOOL

Trump Tower
725 Fifth Avenue, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10022

T: 212 759 1000 - F: 212 759 1188

Email: info@legacyny.org

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institute's facilities located in New York's Trump Tower are designed as an incubator for innovation and extraordinary achievements. Extending beyond the classroom, LEGACY offers premiere amenities; dining and shopping options, as well as prime student services. By delivering elite personalized treatment to students, LEGACY blurs the line between school and leisure in order to captivate minds in an impactful way. LEGACY is the most exclusive, private business school in the US. With exclusivity come unique opportunities to intern at prime companies offered only to students at LEGACY, which are the cornerstone of students' career developments and future successes. At LEGACY, students play a large role in defining who we are - the innovators and trendsetters redefining education. We value you for who you are; unique, passionate and courageous. Let's redefine education together, because our goal is the same as yours: to make you one of tomorrow's entrepreneurial game-changers.



CaSalle University

By the Authority of the Trustees of this University and upon the recommendation of its Haculty, the University does hereby confer upon

Jordan Thompson

The degree of

Your Diploma

Together with all the honors, Rights, and Privileges Pertaining thereto.

In Mitness Mhercof, this Degree is Conferred Bearing the

Seal of the University and presented on the Twenty-Ninth day of the Month of January

Nineteen hundred and Ninety-Nine in Mandeville, Louisiana.

President. En Salle Homersity

43



American University of Science and Technology

Elpon the recommendation of the Faculty of

Arts & Sciences

(Department of Computer Science & Engineering)

The President and Trustees of the American University of Science and Technology, Sp birtue of the authority bested in them,



Master of Science

Which all the rights, privileges, and honors thereto appertaining, and have granted this Diploma testifying to the satisfactory completion of the requirements for that begree. In testimony whereof, the Diploma is only signed and sealed. Issued at Beirut, Lebanon, this

15th day of Thomas Diologiann inni and seben









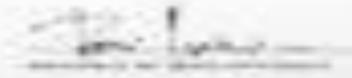


SWEDEN UNIVERSITY

YOUR NAME HERE

Master of Science in Corporate Economy

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Stanton University

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Your Name Here

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF

Married Street, or other Persons



The Board of the Welford University has conferred upon

Albert Einar Gustafson

in recognition of the satisfactory fulfillment of the prescribed requirements. the degree of

Doctor of Science in Computer Science

(Cum Mande)

with all the rights, privileges and honors thereto pertaining here and elsewhere. Presented on the thirty first day of July, two thousand and six.



havillarie 10: President of the University

Whichouf Lenedica

Executive Vice- Uresident

Diploma Mill Buyers & Users aka The Villains

Chester (Undercover Agent Pug)

- Chester volunteered to go undercover by <u>GetEducation.com</u> in a sting operation to bust a diploma mill.
- Chester bought an MBA from Rocheville University claiming accreditation by 2 accreditation mills: Board of Online Universities Accreditation and Universal Council for Online Education Accreditation.





Laura Callahan

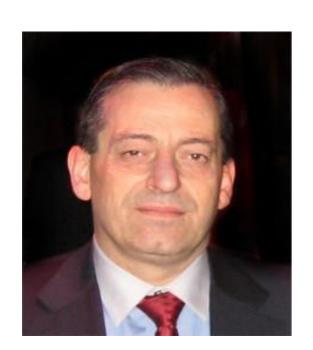
- Served as Deputy Chief Information Officer at US Dept of Homeland Security;
 Senior Information Technology Manager @ White House. Had access to oversee US Dept of Labor's \$240 Million budget & managed databases containing key information on terrorism and U.S. security.
- PhD Computer Science from Hamilton University, based in WY. (diploma mill)
- Resigned on March 26, 2004. Never charged or convicted.





Antoine Zahra

- Former member of Lebanese parliament
- Diploma in Business Studies from the University of Harrington (diploma mill).
- Was not charged/convicted.





Sven Otto-Literin

- Former Swedish Minister for Employment
- MBA from Fairfax University (diploma mill)
- Resigned, not charged/convicted





Rene Drouin

- Served on advisory committee at US Depts of Treasury & Education (2004) & was CEO of New Hampshire Higher Education.
- Degrees from Kensington University and La Salle University (Louisiana) (diploma mills).
- Stepped down, but was not charged or convicted.





Charles Abell

- Served as Assistant Secretary of Defense (2002-2006)
- Master's degree from Columbus University (diploma mill)
- Not charged or convicted





Mark Chelgren

- Republican State Senator from Iowa
- Business Degree from Forbco Management School (not a mgmt. school, but a company operating a Sizzler steak house franchise); claimed degree from UC Riverside in astro-physics, geo-physics & mathematics (not true)





Media and Law Enforcement

Media

- Platform for diploma mills to advertise
- Indifference & lack investigative reporting

Law Enforcement

- Diploma mills are not a priority
- Lawmakers show zero interest
- Even when action is taken it is too little and too late
- Absence of regulation and laws doesn't help





What to look for

- Website
- Accreditation/Recognition
- Name and Address
- Admission criteria/coursework
- Tuition and Fees





Websites

- Poorly designed websites
- Cluttered with ads by other online vendors
- Shares IP & physical addresses as other bogus universities (means they are hosted on the same server, operated by the same person or group of people)
- The "school's" website either lists no faculty or lists faculty who have attended school accredited by bogus schools













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lease select your d	esired graduation year (we can backdated your degree if you wanted)
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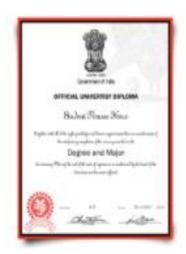
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Accreditation/Recognition

- Claims accreditation with several accrediting agencies to sound impressive
- Lists accreditation by accreditors that are **not** recognized by the U.S.
 Department of Education
- Implies official approval by mentioning state registration or licensing
- The accreditation it claims is with a board that has the same address as the diploma mill
- Claims accreditation by a so-called accreditation body in another country or micro-nation other than the country where it is based or registered to operate

The Jakarta Post

(largest English-language newspaper in Indonesia)

akarta Post Online version of the largest English-language newspaper in Indonesia Always Bold. Always Independent

ABMS on

ArabianBusiness

(business magazine published in Dubai)



ABMS on KyivPost

The largest English Speaking newspaper in Ukriaine



About ABMS on

MaltaToday

Weekly English language newspaper



Religious Recognition

ABMS is one and only independent university to be approved from

- The Education Committee of the Church
- Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World which is part of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - ISESCO



ABMS is not a religion based organization, however we believe the Religious Recognition is sometimes an important fact for students in some countries to find better jobs.

Accreditations

ASIC - Accreditation Service for International Colleges & Universities

ABMS is a Premier Accredited University by Accreditation Service for International Colleges & Universities ASIC UK, which means that ABMS have meet the HIGHEST STANDARD FOR ACCREDITATION by the european renowned accreditation body ASIC UK, click here to see the ASIC ASIC UK Certificate of Accreditation.

ASIC is an approved accreditation body by British Government and can be found on Wiki "List of recognized higher education accreditation organizations worldwide".

INSTITUTION ASIC is one of 12 recognized accreditation bodies by the British Government (recognized by Home Office UK a ministerial department of the British Government), an approved accrediting body for the purposes of compliance by the UK Border Agency (UKBA), a member of the UK NARIC (UK National Academic Recognition Information Centre) Quality Standards Group, a member of the British Quality Foundation (BQF), an affiliated accreditation body by ENQA EUROPE (The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education Education), a number of international accrediting bodies listed in the international directory by the CHEA

USA (Council for Higher Education Accreditation) in the USA and is a member of the CHEA International Quality

Group (CIQG) as well is member by UN - United Nations Academic Impact Read More

OR se



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ACCREDITED PREMIER





Name and Address

- Name is similar to well-known reputable universities
- Has no physical address but box numbers or suites
- The "university" claims to be located in the U.S., yet it's address is in a foreign country
- The "university" claims to be located in the U.S., yet is claims accreditation by an "international assessment/accreditation body"



Admission Criteria/Coursework

- Admission criteria consist entirely of possession of a valid credit card
- College degree offered on a "review" of work experience of resume
- Degree promised within days of filing an application (placing an order)
- There are no in class or online instruction or interaction with professord
- There are no examinations
- Offers options on type of Degree and Issuance Date for Diploma
- Promises short timeframe to get degree (48 hours, 5 days, etc.)
- Allows you to choose date of graduation



Tuition & Fees: Ala Carte Services & Hard Sellings

- Charges tuition on a per-degree basis (e.g. BA: \$500; MBA: \$1000; PhD: \$5000)
- Offers discounts for enrolling in multiple degree programs
- Has promotions/sales for its degrees
- Has an online store to purchase paraphenelia such as class ring, graduation photo, etc.
- Pushy sales force soliciting their products through aggressive spam and advertising tactics
- Multiple complaints filed against the "school"



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Thi	s is the university acceptance letter (admission letter)
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	D\$ 120







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THESIS OPTION B (YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR WRITTEN THESIS, BUT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ONE, AND SHOW IT TO YOUR POTENTIAL EMPLOYER.)

- 1. This type of thesis will be provided a detail research in higher academic level in your chosen major.
- 2. This type of thesis will be written by PhD students and experts from your chosen major.
- 3. This type of thesis will be around 300-400 pages.
- 4. Your thesis will be collected and recorded in the university library collection.
- 5. Your thesis will be binding in premium leather with gold stamping, student name, graduation date, thesis title and signed by at least two university supervisors / professors from the dissertation and thesis committee.
- 6. Your thesis will be stamped by university officials and university committee.
- 7. You will keep one copy for your record and the original copy will be kept in the library.
- 8. Thesis will be sent in second separated package and will be ready in 45-50 working days.

Thesis Option B (You don't have your written thesis, but would like to have one, and show it to your potential employer.)

USD\$ 4500



Advice: Actions to take in-house

- Don't post photos/images of your degrees and transcripts on your online store
- Stay vigilant and monitor your brand online (do regular sweeps on the Internet)
- Take legal action for trade mark or copyright infringements
- Have a published policy on degree and transcript fraud
- Discourage students from posting their degree/diplomas and transcripts on social media
- Share fraudulent documents with colleagues
- Archive documents determined to have been from diploma mills/falsfied (keep records)



Advice: Report Fraud

Federal Trade Commission (FCC)

- File a fraud/scam report https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/#crnt&panel1-1
- Pressure the Federal Trade Commission to act on its 1998 ruling that regulates the use of the word "accredited," and to enforce it against those that are not;

State Representatives

- Alert state representatives and the media when a legitimate school finds its name maligned by a bogus schools
- Work together for the passage of meaningful legislation and the enforcement of existing laws

Advice: Alert Media

Media

- Alert media when a legitimate school finds its name maligned by a bogus school
- Boycott advertising or threaten not to advertise in print or online media where bogus schools are also advertising
- Take action by notifying the editor, publisher or Internet site provider of magazines, publications and websites in which bogus school advertise and inform federal, state and local authorities
- Educate the public through media



Advice: Unite Against Fraud!

- Support the formation of a consortium of legitimate universities, businesses and non-profits to work together tackling educational fraud.
- The Association of International Credential Evaluators (AICE) has a system in place for archiving and reporting credentials fraud. School representatives may join AICE as Affiliate Members. www.aice-eval.org
- Institutional legitimacy is tracked in the GRADE Database[™], where users can access data and report fraud. As of July 2016, GRADE[™] includes profiles for over 1,300 unrecognized, substandard and fraudulent institutions.
 - www.gradedatabase.com





Links

Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) http://www.chea.org

List of unaccredited institutions of higher education

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of unaccredited institutions of higher e ducation

List of accreditation mills

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of unrecognized higher education accreditation organizations



Links

U.S. Higher Education Act

http://legcounsel.house.gov/Comps/HEA65 CMD.pdf

Accredibase 2011 Report (Highlights)

http://www.sourcewire.com/news/63290/accredibase-report-for-2011-reveals-48-increase-in-fake-universities#.Vh1PA24nl4k

H.R.4535 - Diploma and Accreditation Integrity Protection Act of 2009

https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/4535/text



Links

Legislation introduced by the 2 representatives

http://www.chea.org/pdf/Diploma%20Mill%20Final%20Draft.pdf

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) – Report Fraud/Scams

https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/#crnt&panel1-1

Association of International Credential Evaluators www.aice-eval.org

The Grade Databasewww.gradedatabase.com



Articles/Blogs

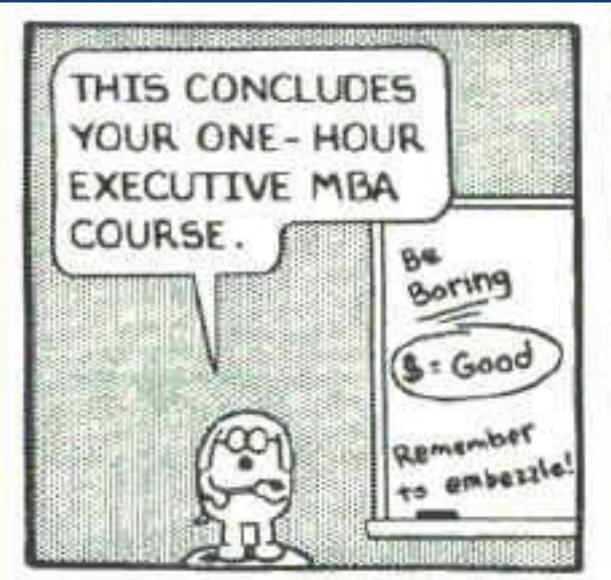
- St. Regis University, Liberia
- U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District, State of Washington press release on St.
 Regis University: http://www.hep.uiuc.edu/home/g-gollin/pigeons/USA press release.htm
- NYT Article on Axact, Karachi, Pakistan http://nyti.ms/1ERy5m0
- * Trump University Settlement https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/19/us/politics/trump-university.html? r=0
- http://www.jrcert.org/news/degree-mills/
- The Spokesman-Review (exhaustive of list of individuals caught with fake degrees)

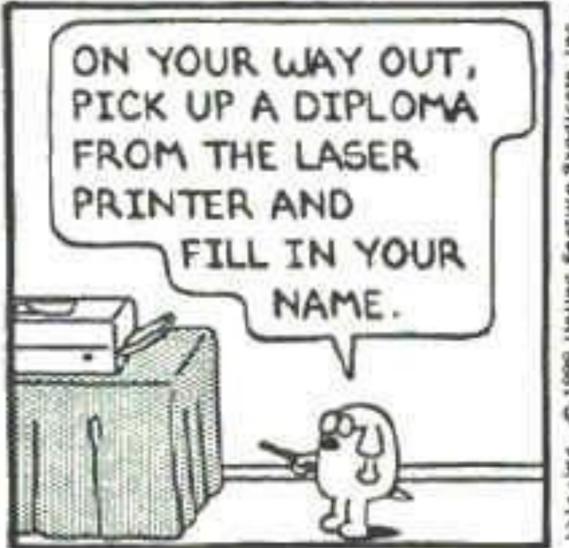
http://www.spokesman.com/stor ies/2008/jul/29/list-identifies-buyers-of-fake-college-degrees/

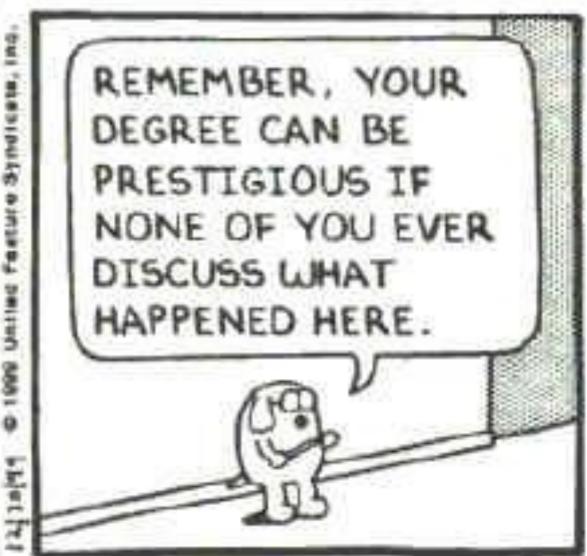
Articles/Blogs

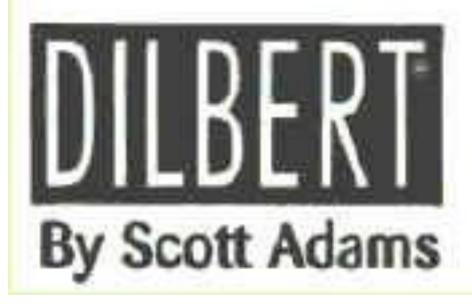
http://gulfnews.com/news/uae/crime/fake-degree-racket-in-uae-exposed-1.1339968













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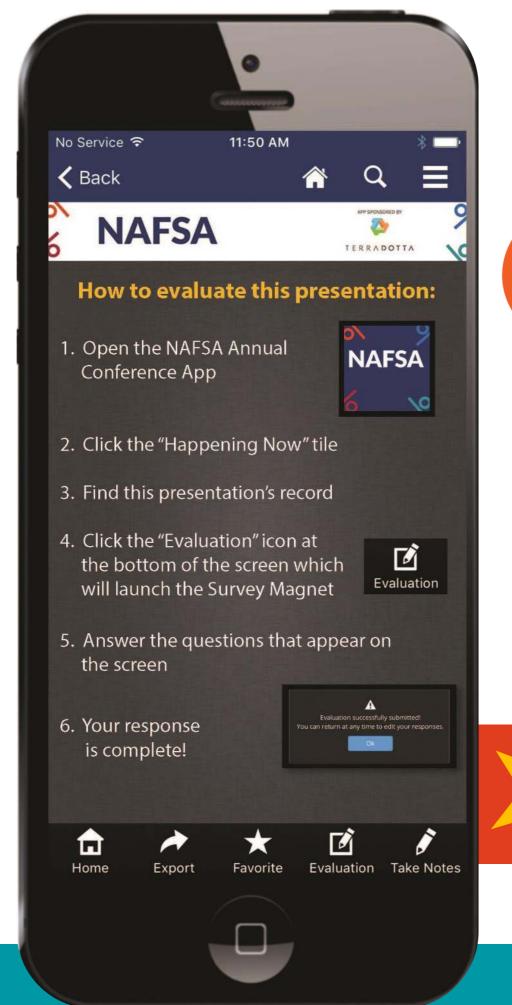


O & A

Thank you for participating in NAFSA 2017!



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