

June 16, 2010

OBAMA EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TIGHTENING RULES FOR FOR-PROFIT SCHOOLS

The drip, drip, drip of the federal department of education rules is increasing in the areas of recruiting and graduation and job-placement rates for schools that receive federal education funds. New rules being proposed include more restrictions on recruiting, limiting incentive payments to recruiters and rules that require the schools disclose information about graduation and job-placement rates to prospective students.

The report in the Washington Post indicated that most of the rules would apply to all colleges, public and private. This remains to be seen, given the lobbying power of the traditional not-for-profit colleges and universities.

This appears to me to be another attack on for-profit schools and colleges, who are experiencing significant growth in this economy, while most of the traditional colleges and universities are not. The traditional colleges and universities do not have the restrictions that for-profit schools do. If they were held to the same accreditation requirements that career institutions are held to, many would not be able to continue.

All of this is to serve as a heads-up to our NHCPE members, whether you can access federal funds or not, - be sure your recruiters are not paid incentives for recruiting new students. More importantly, if you do not keep records on the students who graduate from your programs, you should begin doing that. You should also know where each of these students obtained employment after completing their programs and, if possible, the pay rate they received from their employer. It is quite likely that this information will be more important as time goes on. This information will also help us defend our practices and to be able to aggregate graduation rates and employment statistics as we raise the profile of career schools here in New Hampshire.

If anyone has any questions or wants to discuss these issues further, call me at 580-5395.

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