

Macias, Wendy

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2009 3:04 PM
To: negreg09
Subject: Dear Department of Education

Dear Department of Education,

I am writing for concern of the recent changes in the student loan collection policies. I am a Hunter College, CUNY, Film Production graduate of 2002. I was accepted as a transfer student in 1999 and was then told to wait years to take courses that were then never provided. My lack of training diverted employers from hiring me. I continued to complain about the during my post-graduate years when I began to realize how very few options I had to having my complaints heard. Hunter College, CUNY, NYSED, and the ED contintued to reassure me that the program had gotten better since 2002 but I couldn't and still can't seem to understand how that resolves my issue.

In 2008 I began looking for lawyers to sue the program for false pretences and consumer fraud but with no statute of limitations there is little hope for me to take my case to court. I believe I am now being forced to pay for a program that was overcrowded, unconcerned about my educational development, and incapable of providing the necessary instruction for job placement. I spent five years working for my degree and have not benefited from it since I've graduated during the last seven years. Programs such as these are not being held accountable for the instruction they provide because current policies force repayment rather than assessing whether students are receiving job placements and financial benefits that such programs advertise.

These are hard economic times. Jobs are moving overseas, the economy is sagging and wages are decreasing. Every company seems to be getting a bailout and irresponsible people that use their credit cards unwisely are able to declare bankruptcy. I decided to go to college and was completely unaware that I was taking nothing but a huge risk. Had I been given a realistic assessment of the degree that I was earning I probably wouldn't have earned it, but educational institutions are able to advertise with whatever false hope and misinformation they please. I have not been able to find work in film in three states and I now truly believe that this program is providing degrees for jobs that don't exist. It's like a [REDACTED] in the wind. I went to college and got an apple when I wanted and deserved an orange. I urge you to stop putting the blame on graduates. They do not deserve it. Please do what you can to allow students to receive basic consumer rights and a statute of limitations. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

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Macias, Wendy

From: [REDACTED]
ent: Monday, June 22, 2009 12:31 AM
io: negreg09
Subject: Dept. of Education: Changes in the student loan system

Dear Department of Education,

I would like to comment on the possibility of changes in the student loan system. I am a graduate of the Hunter College Film Production program of 2002. My degree was far less valuable than I had assumed, considering I was only 19 when I began attendance it is easy to see why. I have tried to attain work in film production in three states and even though I completed two internships I was still told by employers that I didn't have either the training or the experience to receive work. Furthermore I realized very soon after my failed attempt in film that my degree was extremely limited in any other field for that matter. I feel as though I have attained \$30,000 of debt for a risk that I never agreed to take.

I am concerned about the degree of truthfulness and honesty in advertising within universities. Although programs can be over-optimistic and shed false hope about the realistic possibilities of receiving viable work, they seem to be completely detached and unconcerned with whether students are able to find work in their fields or are ever able to sustain a financial position that enables them to make payments on their loans.

Recently I have discovered that there is little students can do about their received debts. There are no statutes of limitations and unlike credit card debt have no ability to declare bankruptcy. So what is a student such as myself supposed to do? Why aren't programs held accountable for the work their students are able find? If a program has a 75% to 90% unemployment rate in that particular field of study why does that programs continue exist? My bitter realization that the degree that required five years of study has turned out to be nothing more than shit on a platter is regrettable and forgettable. I believe I was misled in my decision to pursue this degree so I will refuse to repay it. Loans need to have statutes of limitations and students should be able to declare bankruptcy for faults that are not entirely theirs. I hope these changes are undertaken for I only believe the situation to get worse. Hard working students do not deserved to be punished for deciding to attend college. Thanks for listening. Please respond if you have received this message.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

