

(68)

Macias, Wendy

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 11:24 AM
To: negreg09
Subject: FW: 34 CFR Chapter VI Negotiated Rulemaking
Importance: High

Dear Department of Education,

I am a graduate of Ashford University's online program and I am submitting my comments in regards to the DOE's 34 CFR Chapter VI Negotiated Rulemaking. I would like to provide my experience in regards to the online program at Ashford and encourage you to take my email into consideration in your deliberations.

As a wife and full-time working mother of three with a very busy job, it was a big decision to go back to school and work towards my Master's Degree. Having received a BA degree from Duke University in 1999, ten years later I found myself in search of a new challenge. I knew an advanced degree would be very helpful to me for advancement in my career as Community Relations Manager for the then Seattle Supersonics NBA basketball team, however I had no idea how I would find the time and money to attend graduate school. At first, I was a bit skeptical of using an online program to complete my degree. However I did my own research in comparing the various online schools, interviewed friends who had attended University of Phoenix and other online programs and finally consulted my best friend who is an attorney and she suggested I look up Ashford in the DOE database of schools to make sure that Ashford University was accredited. Once I found that Ashford University was indeed accredited by a accreditation body recognized by the DOE, I had all the assurance I needed. Enrolling in Ashford University's online MA program turned out to be a god-send for me. Not only was the Master's of Organizational Management exactly the kind of advanced degree I was looking for, but the price couldn't be beat and the accelerated schedule was just right for me. I thoroughly enjoyed my work in the Ashford University MA program as the textbooks were excellent, the instructors were helpful and the skills and concepts that I learned were immediately applicable to my current position and anything else I may do in the future from working for myself or advancing to a Director or VP position in my current line of work. My virtual classmates provided me the opportunity to engage in critical dialogue and analysis. Furthermore, when I found myself having to relocate in the middle of my schooling due to the move of the former Seattle Supersonics to Oklahoma City, I was truly grateful for being in an online program that could travel with me. I was able to complete my coursework throughout the move to Oklahoma and even traveling to the 2008 inauguration ceremony. Thanks to the knowledge I have acquired through my Ashford University coursework, I was able to successfully create a business plan for my department that my Director is using as a template for our current business-planning process. In closing, as a result of my wonderful experience with Ashford University, I have recommended 3 other people who in turn recommended 2 other people and all are successfully moving towards Bachelor's Degrees in order to improve not only their own lives, but those of their children.

I hope that your rulemaking will allow future students to have the same access, as I had, to an Ashford University education.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

