

# COMMISSION FOR INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

## STAFF NEWS

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May 4, 2009

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Important Dates:

**May 8**

Commission Meeting  
Orlando

**July 27**

Commission Meeting  
Orlando

CIE Website Links:

[CIE Home](#)

[Institution Login](#)

[Rules & Law](#)

[Staff Directory](#)

### Agenda Information

Location:	Date and Time:
<a href="#">Orlando Marriot Lake Mary</a> 1501 International Parkway Lake Mary, FL 32746 (800) 380-7724 <a href="#">Map</a>	May 8, 2009 Beginning at 9 a.m.
Webcast:	Webcast Requirements:
Go to <a href="http://www.fldoe.org/cie/agenda.asp">http://www.fldoe.org/cie/agenda.asp</a> the day of the meeting and click on the webcast link.	Windows Media Player version 9 or higher

### Committee Meetings to be Held

The Rules Committee will be meeting at the Orlando Marriot Lake Mary on May 7, 2009 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The Accreditation Review Committee will be meeting at the Orlando Marriot Lake Mary on May 7, 2009 beginning at 12:00 p.m.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by calling the Commission office at (850) 245-3200.

### Assessing Academic Credentials

The issue of employees who gain employment using falsified "degrees" is especially important in the education sector where the credibility of an institution may well rest upon the credentials of the faculty and the administrators. Hiring an individual who gains his or her position through the use of falsified credentials would leave your organization liable if the employee's actions harm someone. In addition, an institution could find that they have hired a person who is dishonest in other ways, and could expose your organization to other potential damage. Finally, if the applicant's bogus degree(s) are brought to light, your institution could be subject to embarrassment. In the state of Florida, your institution could also risk penalties from the Commission for Independent Education if references to the phony credentials have been submitted on the CIE personnel forms (CIE 401 and/or CIE 402).

"Diploma mills" are companies that sell degrees or professional certificates on the Internet without requiring the buyer to do anything more than pay a fee. Most diploma mills charge a flat fee. They also require little course work, if any, and award the degree based solely on work or life experience (and the payment of a fee).

There are several "Tell-tale Signs" that you can look for when assessing the credibility of an individual's educational credentials. Some of these signs are -

Out of Sequence Degrees – You may find that degrees are earned by an applicant in a non-traditional order such as a master's or doctoral degree but no bachelor's degree. Or the applicant may have a college degree but no high school diploma or General Education Development (G.E.D.) diploma.

Quickie Degrees – Since it takes several years of study to complete undergraduate and graduate degrees, you should be suspicious of an applicant who earned a degree in a very short time or has several degrees listed for the same year.

Sound-Alike Names – Some diploma mills use names that sound like those of well-known colleges or universities. Notice if the name sounds familiar but the state of origin is different from the one that is normally associated with the well-known institution. Consider it a warning if an applicant claims a degree from a country where they have never lived.

Assessing the veracity of an applicant's educational credentials can be a daunting task; however, the pay-off will be the protection of your institution's reputation.

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### **Ask Licensure**

*How does my school notify the Commission of minor program modifications?*

Rule 6E-1.003(43) defines a minor modification as "a change to programs and curricula intended to keep educational material up to date and relevant to the changing needs of employers, when such modifications affect less than 20 percent of the program or curriculum and do not change the purpose or direction of the program; or providing a previously approved program as contract training." Whenever your school anticipates a minor program modification, go to the Commission Web site at [www.fldoe.org/cie](http://www.fldoe.org/cie). Click on Institution Login, and enter your user name and password. If you have forgotten your user name or your password, please call the Commission office at (850) 245-3200.

On the next page, you should click on your institution's name (or the name of the appropriate campus of your institution). This opens the Administration Page where you then will scroll down the page to the Applications section. Now click on Program Addition/Modification. As you complete the Application for Program Addition/Modification, be sure to fill out Page One and Page Four in their entirety. In addition, be sure to

submit the completed application, the modified Program Outline, and any necessary accreditation approvals.

If you have any further questions, please contact your Program Specialist.

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### Calendar

COMMISSION MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS	➤ NEW INSTITUTION  MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN:	➤ ANNUAL RENEWALS PROGRAM ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS AND ALL OTHER LICENSE RELATED MATTERS  MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN:
May 8, 2009 Orlando	Thursday January 8, 2009	Monday February 9, 2009
July 27, 2009 Orlando	Friday March 27, 2009	Monday April 27, 2009

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### How to Contact Us

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