



# **Investigative Report of Office of Law Enforcement and Security Technology Division**

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This is a version of the report prepared for public release.

## SYNOPSIS

The Office of Inspector General received a complaint alleging that an Assistant Director for the Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES), Technology Division, had falsified his educational qualifications listed on the Department of the Interior Web site, as well as on LinkedIn.

Our investigation revealed that the assistant director obtained falsified university transcripts, claiming to have graduated with a master's degree from the University of Central Florida and a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. We also determined that he made these claims on his official records he submitted to the Department of Interior.

We presented this case to the U.S. Attorney Office's for the District of Columbia and Maryland for possible violations of 18 USC 1001(False Statements) and 18 USC 1343 (Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud). The case was declined. On July 5, 2013, the assistant director resigned from the Department of the Interior.

## DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

On July 2, 2013, we received a complaint alleging that an Assistant Director for the Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES) Technology Division, falsified his educational background. The complainant said she found the information on the Department of the Interior (DOI) OLES Web site, as well as on LinkedIn. A subsequent interview with the assistant director, analysis of his government computer, and our review of his personnel records indicated that he had obtained falsified transcripts. These records made it appear that he had a master's degree from the University of Central Florida and a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He submitted these records to Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) Human Resources Division for his Government Official Personnel Folder (OPF). He cited both degrees on the resume he submitted to apply for the Senior Executive Service (SES).

We interviewed the complainant, an employee with the University of Central Florida (UCF), Alumni Association. The complainant said she first encountered references to the assistant director when trying to find UCF alumni living in the Washington, DC, area to whom she could introduce the UCF president during a future visit to Washington, DC. The complainant said she searched the social media website, LinkedIn, where she found the assistant director's profile. The profile indicated that he attended UCF between 1991 and 1993, receiving a master's degree in Technology Management.

The complainant said she asked to join the assistant director's "network." Initially, he accepted her request, but later deleted her from his network. Finding his response unusual, the complainant searched UCF's alumni database, but could not find the assistant director listed. She then asked the registrar to search university records. The registrar's search indicated that the assistant director never attended UCF. The UCF registrar's office also confirmed these findings for OIG.

The assistant director's LinkedIn profile also claimed that he attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison between 1986 and 1990, receiving a bachelor's degree in Information Technology.

*Agent's Note: The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh is a part of the University of Wisconsin educational system. The University of Wisconsin-Madison is the main campus, located in a different part of the state.*

When we interviewed the assistant director about his education, the assistant director said he went to the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, “for a few years,” starting in 1986, but had a break in studies after 1988. He eventually left the university in 1989 without obtaining a bachelor’s degree. The assistant director subsequently admitted that the only formal education he had received was through the Senior Executive Fellows Program at the Harvard Kennedy School, which OLES paid for after he joined DOI. When asked why he claimed to have a master’s degree from UCF on his LinkedIn profile, he said, “I just...wanted to be something I’m not, I guess.”

When asked if he claimed he had a master’s degree from UCF anywhere else other than LinkedIn, the assistant director said he had told several of his friends and also posted it on his Facebook page. He later admitted that his resume also reflected that he had a master’s degree. He insisted, however, that he did not claim to have a bachelor’s degree on his SF-86 (Questionnaire for National Security Positions) and that he was positive he had not misrepresented his educational background on any official Government document.

When shown his official Federal Personal Payroll System (FPPS) data sheet that indicated he had a master’s degree from UCF, the assistant director admitted requesting that his SF-50 (Notification of Personnel Action) be changed possibly 1 ½ years before. He admitted that his actions were wrong, claiming he did not know why he did it. The assistant director said that he provided Human Resources with false documentation of his UCF degree, which he had purchased from a fraudulent college transcript Web site.

A review of the assistant director’s OLES laptop revealed a fraudulent UCF master’s degree transcript and a fraudulent University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh bachelor’s degree transcript. We also recovered several emails indicating that he had contacted BSEE Human Resources Division on July 27, 2010. During several email exchanges, the assistant director indicated that an error concerning his educational level had been made on his SF-50, citing that, although he had submitted transcripts when employed by DOI, only those pertaining to his bachelor’s degree were used, rather than both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. The human resources specialist replied that his SF-50 only showed transcripts for his bachelor’s degree. A review of the assistant director’s OPF indicated that as of December 9, 2007, his hiring date, his educational level was a 13, equivalent to a bachelor’s degree.

We contacted Human Resources for copies of the documents the assistant director submitted when applying for his DOI position. Human Resources could not find a copy of the initial vacancy announcement, but were able to locate the bachelor’s degree transcript.

**SUBJECT(S)**

Assistant Director for the Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES), Technology Division.

**DISPOSITION**

Case closed within PI.