



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Criminal Division

---

*Washington, DC 20530-0001*

August 31, 2016

John H Davis  
Attorney at Law  
5201 Broadway Suite 205  
Merrilville, IN 46410

Dear Mr. Davis:

This letter is in response to correspondence we received from you on June 13, 2016. In an attachment to your letter, you explain that you currently represent Mr. Bennie Kennedy, who has filed a lawsuit against Prairie State College, in Chicago Heights, Illinois, for terminating his employment as an instructor because he lacked the proper credentials. You explain further that if the college believed that Mr. Kennedy was not qualified to teach, then the college may have committed fraud and deception by claiming to be a fully accredited institution when, in fact, it was not because it employed an instructor who was not qualified to teach. Your correspondence also indicates that you have made your concerns known to several federal and state agencies, including federal and local prosecuting authorities, and that Mr. Kennedy has disavowed any knowledge of any such fraud.

The Department of Justice cannot comment on pending private litigation. However, if you believe that a federal crime has been committed, you may contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the investigative arm of the Department, at the following address and website:

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
2111 W. Roosevelt Road  
Chicago, Illinois 60608  
[chicago.fbi.gov](http://chicago.fbi.gov)

Sincerely,

Correspondence Management Staff  
Office of Administration

Reference Number: DA300527093



OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
FOR THE AGENCIES OF THE ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

69 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 3400  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
(312) 814-5600

June 7, 2016

John H. Davis  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 43  
Crown Point, IN 46307

Re: OEIG Complaint #16-01057

Dear Mr. Davis:

The Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor received your letter/complaint on June 1, 2016. We will review the information and determine what course of action, if any, should be taken. We may open an investigation or refer this matter to another agency or law enforcement authority for appropriate action.

Please be advised that our agency is required to keep confidential all records and information pertaining to any investigation we undertake, including the identity of the complainant. Therefore, we will be unable to provide you with the status or outcome of any investigation we may undertake, although under certain circumstances our final investigative reports with findings of misconduct may be publicly released.

If you made this complaint on behalf of an agency, board or commission, state university or a regional transit board, please be advised that the filing of this complaint does not obviate any other obligation you or other employees may have regarding the subject matter of this complaint.

If you have additional information concerning your initial complaint, or any other matter, please feel free to contact us. Your commitment to ensuring honesty, integrity, and accountability in state government is greatly appreciated and we thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Hickey  
Executive Inspector General

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Antoinette A. Kwateng  
Deputy Inspector General  
Complaints & Compliance Division



OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
FOR THE AGENCIES OF THE ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

69 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 3400  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
(312) 814-5600

REFERRAL

June 29, 2016

John H. Davis  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 43  
Crown Point, IN 46307

**Re: OEIG Complaint #16-01057**

Dear Mr. Davis:

Upon review of your complaint, the Office of Executive Inspector General has determined that the nature of your allegation is such that it is more appropriately addressed by the Illinois Community College Board. The OEIG works closely with other inspectors general and agency investigators where necessary to ensure the matter is appropriately addressed. Therefore, we have referred your complaint to that office.

Please be aware that there are stringent "whistle blower" protections provided in the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/15-5) that prohibit retaliation against those who make good faith allegations of misconduct.

Pursuant to Illinois Statute and Executive Order, complaints, files and reports of the Office of Executive Inspector General are confidential and may not be disclosed. Any such disclosure could impede an investigation and thereby interfere with the enforcement of the law. (5 ILCS 430/20-90(b); 5 ILCS 430/20-95 (D); Executive Order 4, §V (2)). If you have any questions regarding non-disclosure of confidential information, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Hickey  
Executive Inspector General

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antoinette A. Kwateng", written over a horizontal line.

Antoinette A. Kwateng  
Deputy Inspector General  
Complaints & Compliance Division

# EXHIBIT C



4. In my role as Interim Vice President, Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty for the College, I oversee all academic programs in a variety of areas, including the Department of Health and Industrial Technology, and am responsible for overseeing the academic integrity of our academic programs. In this current role, as well as my prior role as Academic Dean of HIT, I have been responsible for overseeing the review of faculty members' qualifications to teach in PSC's academic programs.

5. Consistent with the Higher Learning Commission's requirements, instructors in HIT must meet one of the following minimum standards:

- a. Bachelor's degree in engineering, engineering technology, industrial technology, industrial technology, or industrial education with an emphasis in the field taught and three (3) years of successful work experience in the field; or
- b. Associate's degree in the field and five (5) years successful work experience in the field; or
- c. Documented journeyman's status in the field and seven (7) years of successful work experience in the field.

6. In or around mid- to late-July 2010, I received a telephone call from an individual who identified herself as Gloria and as an employee of Schneider Electric. She requested a copy of the syllabus for a PSC course being taught by Bennie Kennedy and explained simply that she was requesting it to ensure the Company's proprietary information was not being used. She did not state or imply that either Mr. Kennedy or PSC actually was using Schneider Electric's proprietary information. I told her I would review the matter. I did not send a syllabus to Schneider Electric.

7. In August 2010, the College conducted a periodic review of all adjunct faculty members' files to ensure that each faculty member maintained the requisite teaching credentials. Because the College did not have documentation of the requisite teaching credentials from him, it asked Kennedy to provide such documentation.

8. The documentation that Mr. Kennedy subsequently provided the College did not demonstrate that he met one of the above qualifications required by the Higher Learning Commission to maintain the College's accreditation.

9. Accordingly, the College revoked its approval for Mr. Kennedy to teach at PSC until such time as he could provide the requisite documentation.

10. PSC's decision to revoke Mr. Kennedy's approval to teach at the College was based solely on his failure to demonstrate the minimum requirements for faculty that the College's accrediting body requires.

11. PSC's decision to revoke Mr. Kennedy's approval to teach at the College had no connection to the telephone call I received from Schneider Electric in mid- to late-July 2010.

12. On April 12, 2011, in my capacity as Academic Dean of HIT, I sent Mr. Kennedy a letter reminding him that he still had not provided documentation of his teaching credentials and informed him that if he provided this documentation, the College would reevaluate his qualifications for reinstatement as an adjunct faculty member. Attached as Exhibit A is a true and accurate copy of the April 12, 2011 letter I sent to Mr. Kennedy.

13. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statements are true and correct.

**FURTHER DECLARANT SAYETH NOT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Marie Hansel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

8. The documentation that Mr. Kennedy subsequently provided the College did not demonstrate that he met one of the above qualifications required by the Higher Learning Commission to maintain the College's accreditation.

Accordingly, the College revoked its approval for Mr. Kennedy to teach at PSC until such time as he could provide the requisite documentation.

10. PSC's decision to revoke Mr. Kennedy's approval to teach at the College was based solely on his failure to demonstrate the minimum requirements for faculty that the College's accrediting body requires.

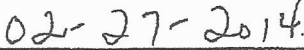
11. PSC's decision to revoke Mr. Kennedy's approval to teach at the College had no connection to the telephone call I received from Schneider Electric in mid- to late-July 2010.

12. On April 12, 2011, in my capacity as Academic Dean of HIT, I sent Mr. Kennedy a letter reminding him that he still had not provided documentation of his teaching credentials and informed him that if he provided this documentation, the College would reevaluate his qualifications for reinstatement as an adjunct faculty member. Attached as Exhibit A is a true and accurate copy of the April 12, 2011 letter I sent to Mr. Kennedy.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statements are true and correct.

**FURTHER DECLARANT SAYETH NOT**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Marie Hansel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA  
HAMMOND DIVISION

BENNIE KENNEDY,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No.: 2:16-cv-00125-JVB-JEM
	)	
PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE,	)	
Individually and Collectively,	)	
	)	
PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE	)	
BOARD OF DIRECTORS,	)	
Individually and Collectively,	)	
	)	
MARIE HANSEL,	)	
Individually and Collectively,	)	
	)	
PATTY VALENZIANO,	)	
Individually and Collectively,	)	
	)	
DOES 1-30,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

**MOTION UNDER RULE 19 TO JOIN THE HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION AS A REQUIRED DEFENDANT AND FOR LEAVE TO JOIN THE HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION AS A PERMISSIVE DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 20 OF THE FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE**

Plaintiff Bennie Kennedy (“Kennedy”), through Attorney John H. Davis, respectfully moves this Court to join the Higher Learning Commission as a required defendant under Rule 19 and for leave to join the Higher Learning Commission as a permissive defendant under Rule 20 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure stating the following:

The Higher Learning Commission (“HLC”) accredits universities and colleges such as Prairie State College (“PSC”). It does and has done accreditation for Prairie State College. In addition the Higher Learning Commission has the oversight and authority to review adjunct faculty unions in those colleges and universities that they (HLC) accredit. The Higher Learning Commission is a *key component* for a complete and full litigation and/or resolution of the plaintiff’s complaint.

Plaintiff filed his (Kennedy’s) lawsuit against Prairie State College in April of 2016 setting forth the following allegations *Fraud, Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO), Breach of Contract, and Misprision of Felony*.

One of the allegations stem from a document authored by the Dean of Prairie State College, Marie Hansel, which set forth within that document, under Item #7, that she sought *credentials* regarding Mr. Kennedy’s teaching and yet, under Item #8, she sought *qualifications* regarding Mr. Kennedy’s teaching.

Plaintiff sought and continues to seek pursuit of the complaint against Prairie State College and in accordance with that pursuit, filed a motion for default judgment, in that, Prairie State College ignored the complaint for almost a year and responded to plaintiff’s motion for default judgment by stating that the motion for default judgment was the first incident when they (PSC) became knowledgeable regarding the complaint.

The complaint was served on the administrative head of Prairie State College, who is the proper party to serve pursuant to rules of service of process as

well as several administrative, faculty members, and the said author of the document referenced above. Additionally, Prairie State College's *registered agent* for process of service was served - all at the same time.

Service was accomplished or executed by Federal Express Corporation which is a company or 'third party commercial carrier' that has been acknowledged by federal courts under the rules of service to allow proper service with signature verification.

Plaintiff provided the documents reflecting proper service when plaintiff sought and obtained the *Clerk's Entry of Default*.

Plaintiff, in seeking to add the Higher Learning Commission as a defendant, sets forth the fact that Defendant, Prairie State College, in said document authored by Dean Marie Hansel ("Hansel"), caused the Higher Learning Commission to be the reasons she (Hansel) took the action against plaintiff - that being termination of his *continued* adjunct employment such that if the Higher Learning Commission is cited as the entity which caused plaintiff to be terminated, the Higher Learning Commission, thereby, becomes a defendant.

The Higher Learning Commission, in accrediting Prairie State College, becomes the principle as to the actions taken by PSC, who then acts as the *agent* of the Higher Learning Commission. Thus, service on the agent is proper service to the principle.

If the Higher Learning Commission, an accrediting agency, is not brought into the action and Prairie State College manages to *extract* themselves from this litigation, it leaves plaintiff liable to the students who took courses over the years taught by the plaintiff. It also leaves plaintiff **exposed** to complaints from the Department of Education with plaintiff perpetrating a Fraud regarding federal funds that were available to the students as student loans.

In 2015, the Secretary of Education said that one of the Department's goals is to signal to accreditors "that we're paying attention" to student outcomes and that they are "going to matter".

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/11/17/education-department-faces-challenges-cracking-down-college-accreditors>

"By law, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) relies in part on accrediting agencies to determine eligibility for U.S. government assistance under certain legislation".

<https://www.hlcommission.org/About-HLC/relations-with-governmental-agencies.html>

This fact places plaintiff in jeopardy of being a part of the improper use of federal student funds.

Thus, if the Defendant Prairie State College pursues their (PSC) argument that plaintiff was **not qualified** and the Higher Learning Commission is **not** brought into the lawsuit as a defendant, again, it leaves plaintiff responsible for the misuse of federal student loan funds.

It has been, and continues to be, plaintiff's position that he (Kennedy) was, in fact, **qualified** to teach the classes he taught.

In referencing the companion case, *Kennedy v. Schneider Electric*, which was recently heard during Oral Argument before the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeal, the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Panel was apprised of documents which supported the ample qualifications of plaintiff (Kennedy) to teach the classes he taught at any institution or corporation and particularly at Prairie State College.

During the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Oral Argument of *Kennedy v. Schneider Electric*, Chief Judge Diane Wood pointed out to the defense counsel of Schneider Electric that "there is a difference between credentials and qualifications". (See Affidavit of Attorney John H. Davis and Paralegal Sheila Collier marked as **EXHIBIT A** and **EXHIBIT B** attached and made apart hereto).

Defendants seek to place blame, if any, on the Higher Learning Commission via that document authored by Dean Marie Hansel. Plaintiff, in order to fully pursue his litigation regarding harm to him, must bring into this litigation the Higher Learning Commission.

Until plaintiff can get into the substance of his complaint, plaintiff is at a loss.

Plaintiff cannot adequately litigate his complaint without Joinder of the Higher Learning Commission, which is - according to the Prairie State College's

document, the originator and the **reason** given by Defendant, Prairie State College for his termination.

Plaintiff respectfully requests the Court to join the Higher Learning Commission as a required Defendant to Plaintiff's complaint under Rule 19 of the *Federal Rule of Civil Procedure*. In the alternative, Plaintiff requests leave of the Court to join the Higher Learning Commission as a Defendant to Plaintiff's complaint under Rule 20 of the *Federal Rule of Civil Procedure*.

## DISCUSSION

### I. RULE 19

Under Rule 19(a)(1)(a) of the *Federal Rule of Civil Procedure* (FRCP), a party must be joined as a defendant if "in that person's absence, the court cannot accord complete relief among existing parties."<sup>1</sup> Here, the court cannot accord complete relief to Plaintiff Kennedy on his claims without providing recourse against the Higher Learning Commission - which is the agency responsible for regional accreditation of degree-granting colleges and universities in Midwestern and South-Central states.

---

<sup>1</sup> Rule 19(a)(1) applies only if the party is subject of service of process and if joinder would not defeat federal subject matter jurisdiction. The Higher Learning Commission is an established accrediting agency and is capable of receiving process via its headquarters in Chicago, Illinois: 230 South LaSalle Street #7-500, Chicago, IL 60604. Because the Higher Learning Commission is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, it presents no threat to subject matter jurisdiction.

## II. RULE 20

Under Rule 20(a)(2) of the *Federal Rule of Civil Procedure* (FRCP), the Court may join a party as a defendant if (a) a right to relief is asserted against them that arises out of the same series of transactions or occurrences and (b) any question of law or fact common to all defendants will arise in the action. These requirements are met because Defendant Prairie State College points to the Higher Learning Commission as the instigator or originator of the allegations that plaintiff was not qualified to teach the classes he taught. Questions of law or fact as issue in this case apply equally to the Higher Learning Commission and the present defendants.

### CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Court should join the Higher Learning Commission as a required Defendant to the Plaintiff's complaint under Rule 19 or as a permissive Defendant under Rule 20 of the *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure*.

Dated: **April 3, 2018**

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ John H. Davis  
Attorney for Plaintiff

John H. Davis & Associates  
P.O. Box 43  
Crown Point, Indiana 46308-0043  
Phone: (219) 884 – 2461

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on **April 3, 2017** a copy of the foregoing pleading/document was filed with the Clerk of the Court electronically using CM/ECF system. I also certify that the foregoing document is being served on this day on all counsel of record or on all parties identified below in some other authorized manner for those counsel or parties who are not authorized to receive electronic Notices of Electronic Filing.

**VIA Federal Express:**

Ms. Barbara Gellman-Danley  
President  
*Higher Learning Commission*  
230 South LaSalle Street #7-500,  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

By: /s/ John H. Davis  
John H. Davis



# EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA  
HAMMOND DIVISION

BENNIE KENNEDY,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No.: 2:16-cv-00125-JVB-JEM
	)	
PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE,	)	
Individually and Collectively,	)	
	)	
PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE	)	
BOARD OF DIRECTORS,	)	
Individually and Collectively,	)	
	)	
MARIE HANSEL,	)	
Individually and Collectively,	)	
	)	
PATTY VALENZIANO,	)	
Individually and Collectively,	)	
	)	
DOES 1-30,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF MOTION UNDER RULE 19 TO JOIN  
THE HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION AS A REQUIRED  
DEFENDANT AND FOR LEAVE TO JOIN THE HIGHER LEARNING  
COMMISSION AS A PERMISSIVE DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 20 OF  
THE FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE**

Attorney John H. Davis, being first duly sworn upon his oath, states  
and affirms as follows:

1. I am an adult with personal knowledge of the facts attested to  
herein. I am a citizen of the State of Indiana.

2. I am the present attorney for the plaintiff in the above-captioned matter, knowledgeable and can testify in the matters set forth in the above case.
3. I am aware and was present during the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Oral Argument of *Kennedy v. Schneider Electric*, where Chief Judge Diane Wood pointed out and stated to the defense counsel of Schneider Electric that “there is a difference between credentials and qualifications”.

Further the affiant sayeth naught.

April 3, 2018

/s/ John H. Davis  
John H. Davis

I affirm under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing representations and averments are true and correct to the best of my belief and knowledge.

April 3, 2018

/s/ John H. Davis  
John H. Davis

# EXHIBIT B

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA  
HAMMOND DIVISION

BENNIE KENNEDY, )  
)  
Plaintiff, )

v. )

Case No.: 2:16-cv-00125-JVB-JEM

PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE, )  
Individually and Collectively, )

PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE )  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, )  
Individually and Collectively, )

MARIE HANSEL, )  
Individually and Collectively, )

PATTY VALENZIANO, )  
Individually and Collectively, )

DOES 1-30, )  
Defendants. )

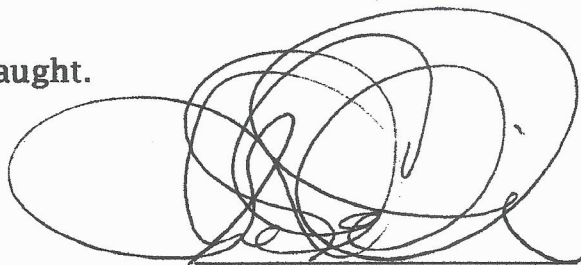
**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF MOTION UNDER RULE 19 TO JOIN  
THE HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION AS A REQUIRED  
DEFENDANT AND FOR LEAVE TO JOIN THE HIGHER LEARNING  
COMMISSION AS A PERMISSIVE DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 20 OF  
THE FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE**

I, Sheila Collier, being first duly sworn upon her oath, states and  
affirms as follows:

1. I am an adult with personal knowledge of the facts attested to herein. I am a citizen of the State of Indiana.
2. I am the present paralegal for Attorney John H. Davis in the above-captioned matter, knowledgeable and can testify in the matters set forth in the above case.
3. I am aware and was present during the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Oral Argument of Kennedy v. Schneider Electric, where Chief Judge Diane Wood pointed out and stated to the defense counsel of Schneider Electric that “there is a difference between credentials and qualifications”.

Further the affiant sayeth naught.

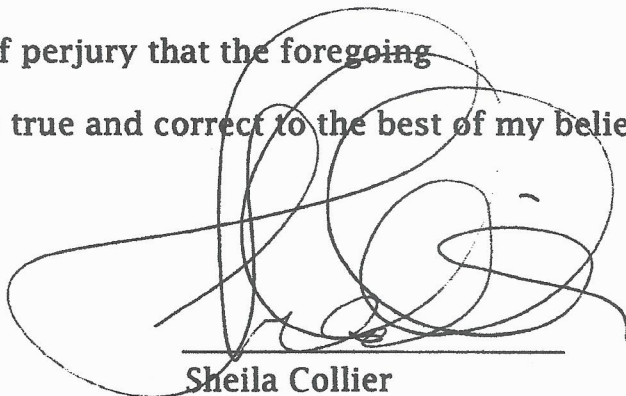
April 3, 2018



Sheila Collier

I affirm under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing representations and averments are true and correct to the best of my belief and knowledge.

April 3, 2018



Sheila Collier

/\*  
/\*\*\* CLICK ON URL BELOW TO READ FULL STORY \*\*\*/  
/\*

PRNewswire Website Below, Read & Sourced on April 5, 2018:

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/attorney-john-h-davis--associates-files-fraud-lawsuit-on-behalf-of-bennie-kennedy-300589691.html>

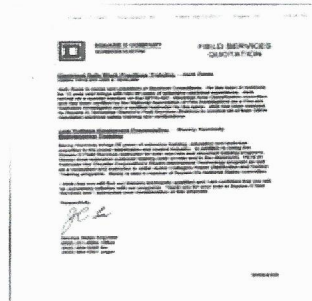
## Attorney John H. Davis & Associates Files Fraud Lawsuit on Behalf of Bennie Kennedy

NEWS PROVIDED BY

**Attorney John H. Davis & Associates**

Jan 29, 2018, 14:36 ET

HAMMOND, Ind., Jan. 29, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- Attorney John H. Davis & Associates announces that its client Bennie Kennedy has filed a lawsuit against Prairie State College in Chicago Heights, Illinois for **fraud** by allegedly authoring a **false** and **fictitious** document which the lawsuit says provided and assisted a French global electric company in obtaining a summary judgment in the company's favor. The lawsuit alleges that Prairie State College through Dean Marie Hansel authored the above-mentioned document.



Schneider Electric Human Resources Materials

(Continued on original Website above)

/\*  
/\*\*\* CLICK ON URL ABOVE TO READ FULL STORY \*\*\*/  
/\*

/\*  
/\*\*\* **CLICK ON URL BELOW TO READ FULL STORY** \*\*\*/  
/\*

Website Below, Read & Sourced on April 5, 2018:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/11/17/education-department-faces-challenges-cracking-down-college-accreditors>

## Challenges of an Accreditor Crackdown

The Education Department says it's going to get tougher with college accreditors. But are those federally recognized watchdogs too big to fail?

By Michael Stratford

November 17, 2015  
26 COMMENTS

In announcing a set of new college accreditation measures earlier this month, Education Secretary Arne Duncan reiterated his criticism that accreditors are the "watchdogs that don't bite."

But will the department itself have more bark than bite as it attempts to crack down on those accreditors?

The administration earlier this month unveiled ambitious legislative proposals on accreditation, calling on Congress to give the Education Department the power to force accreditors to stop approving colleges where too few students graduate and many are unable to repay their loans.

Since that plan faces long odds of going anywhere in the current Congress, though, much of the attention on accreditation in the coming months will focus on how the Obama administration enforces existing federal accreditation rules.

Education Department officials say that even without a change in the law, they are now going to pay greater attention to student outcomes in their oversight of federally recognized accreditors. The department has suggested that it may take a more aggressive approach to its process of granting federal recognition to accreditors.

(Continued on original Website above)

/\*  
/\*\*\* **CLICK ON URL ABOVE TO READ FULL STORY** \*\*\*/  
/\*



/\*  
/\*\*\* **CLICK ON URL BELOW TO READ FULL STORY** \*\*\*/  
/\*

Website Below, Read & Sourced on April 5, 2018:

[http://www.nwitimes.com/business/lake-newsletter/feds-award-grant-for-mobile-manufacturing-job-training-program/article\\_577a7392-8d7e-5c74-a851-af32fb610ee8.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/business/lake-newsletter/feds-award-grant-for-mobile-manufacturing-job-training-program/article_577a7392-8d7e-5c74-a851-af32fb610ee8.html)

EDITOR'S PICK URGENT

## Feds award \$938,447 grant for mobile manufacturing job training program

- Joseph S. Pete joseph.pete@nwi.com, 219-933-3316
- Jan 5, 2018



Prairie State College in Chicago Heights landed a \$938,447 grant for a mobile manufacturing job training program.

JIM BIS | THE TIMES

A new welding and machining job training program is coming to the south suburbs, a few miles from the state line.

Prairie State College in Chicago Heights secured a \$938,447 federal grant for a mobile manufacturing job training program that's expected to create 350 jobs and retain another 100 positions. Prairie State College also estimates its program, which involves training workers in welding and machining in semitractor-trailer, will spur \$8.5 million in additional private investment.

Dennis Alvord, U.S. Department of Commerce Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs, commended the college for its innovative approach.

“This new and innovative job training facility will provide workers with the skills they need to receive highly specialized jobs in the manufacturing industry,” he said.

Prairie State College, which trains local ArcelorMittal employees through its Steelworker for the Future program, plans to bring the semitractor-trailer around to area employers, community sites and underserved communities to help teach people needed manufacturing job skills.

(Continued on original Website above)

/\*\*\*\*\*  
/\*\*\* [CLICK ON URL ABOVE TO READ FULL STORY](#) \*\*\*/  
/\*\*\*\*\*/