

Flawed GAO Report unfairly impacted Florida career colleges: FAPSC

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Dec. 8, 2010 – A U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report that maligned career colleges has been substantially revised, calling into question recent accusations against the for-profit sector, according to the Florida Association of Postsecondary Colleges and Schools (FAPSC).

The GAO yesterday released an amended version of the results of its investigation of 15 for-profit career colleges by undercover applicants. The GAO has significantly revised language in 16 of the 28 reported scenarios between undercover applicants and school representatives. In all cases, the original language used in the scenarios was inaccurate and biased against the colleges.

“It’s clear that all the facts were not accurately presented when the GAO report was initially introduced as testimony before Congress. This report fueled negativity and a false sense of urgency for the U.S. Department of Education’s regulations on gainful employment. The Department needs to revisit the proposed regulations that would cut federal loans to tens of thousands of Florida career college students,” Kathy Mizereck, FAPSC executive director, said.

The original GAO report has been used as the basis of high profile Congressional hearings and received attention in the news media nationally and in Florida. The Florida Attorney General’s office cited the same flawed GAO report as the primary impetus behind its recent announcement of an inquiry into Florida career schools.

Mizereck said her association supports United States Senator Michael B. Enzi’s call (letter attached) for withdrawal of the original testimony, and a full explanation of the changes before further hearings or other inquiries proceed based on this flawed information.

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