



Lawrence F. Alwin, CPA  
State Auditor

September 4, 2002

Members of the Legislative Audit Committee:

An investigation by the State Auditor's Special Investigations Unit led to the indictment of Cristi Trevino by the Travis County Grand Jury. The Public Integrity Unit of the Travis County District Attorney's Office obtained the indictment on August 5, 2002. Ms. Trevino, a former student of the University of the Incarnate Word, allegedly forged a College Access Loan (CAL) application. The Higher Education Coordinating Board requested the investigation of this offense.

Between January and May 1997, Ms. Trevino allegedly forged a friend's signature on a CAL application without the friend's knowledge. She then submitted the forged CAL application to the Higher Education Coordinating Board, which resulted in the fraudulent disbursement of more than \$3,400 for tuition, fees, and personal expenses. Ms. Trevino faces one count of forgery and one count of securing execution of a document by deception. These offenses are state jail felony charges that carry a maximum penalty of two years in a state jail and a \$10,000 fine.

The **College Access Loan (CAL)** program is funded through the Hinson-Hazelwood College Student Loan Program and is administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Board. Students apply for this aid through the financial aid office of the college they plan to attend. Promissory notes require a co-signer, and the co-signer's credit worthiness is checked. Due to similar cases already investigated by the Special Investigations Unit, the Coordinating Board now contacts co-signers to verify signatures and the loan amounts.

If you have any questions, contact Ralph Disher or John Weber, Special Investigations Unit, at (512) 936-9500.

Sincerely,

Lawrence F. Alwin, CPA  
State Auditor

cc: Dr. Don W. Brown, Commissioner, Higher Education Coordinating Board  
The Honorable Ronnie Earle, Travis County District Attorney

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The **Special Investigations Unit** investigates reports of illegal activity involving state agencies and universities. The Unit refers the results to prosecuting authorities.

Government Code Section 321.022 requires state agencies and universities to report suspected fraud or unlawful conduct to the State Auditor's Office if there are facts (not just suspicion) that point to fraud or unlawful conduct.

To report suspected illegal activity, call 1-800-TX-AUDIT (1-800-892-8348), send a fax to (512) 936-9400, visit <http://www.sao.state.tx.us>, or mail information to the State Auditor's Office, Attn: SIU, P.O. Box 12067, Austin, Texas 78711.

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