July 9, 2009

Members of the Legislative Audit Committee:

On June 30, 2009, the Lubbock County Criminal District Attorney obtained an indictment from a Lubbock County grand jury on James Dannis Mitchell, the former Director of Texas Tech University’s Institute for Child and Family Studies (Institute).

In January 2006, the Special Investigations Unit received allegations from Texas Tech University’s Office of Audit Services that Mr. Mitchell was operating a private business selling Institute-developed training materials for his own profit.

The indictment charged Mr. Mitchell with theft of $500 or more, but less than $1,500, by a public servant (a state jail felony).

If you have any questions, please contact Krista Steele, Senior Investigator, or me at (512) 936-9500.

Sincerely,

John Keel, CPA
State Auditor

cc: The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas
    Mr. Kent Hance, Chancellor, Texas Tech University System
    Mr. Matthew D. Powell, Lubbock County Criminal District Attorney
    Ms. Kim Turner, CPA, Chief Audit Executive, Texas Tech University System
This document is not copyrighted. Readers may make additional copies of this report as needed. In addition, most State Auditor’s Office reports may be downloaded from our Web site: www.sao.state.tx.us.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document may also be requested in alternative formats. To do so, contact our report request line at (512) 936-9880 (Voice), (512) 936-9400 (FAX), 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD), or visit the Robert E. Johnson Building, 1501 North Congress Avenue, Suite 4.224, Austin, Texas 78701.

The State Auditor’s Office is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability in employment or in the provision of services, programs, or activities.

To report waste, fraud, or abuse in state government call the SAO Hotline: 1-800-TX-AUDIT.