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CHEA Statement in Response to Fake Accreditor And Higher Education Institutional Websites

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) is deeply concerned about the rise of fraudulent institutional and accreditation websites that mislead students and undermine the public's trust in legitimate institutions, accreditation, and quality assurance. These fraudulent sites mimic legitimate accrediting organizations and institutions, charging fees and stealing personal data, with devastating consequences to prospective students. CHEA condemns these practices. It is vital that all prospective students and individuals who use accreditation as a measure of quality, ensure that the accreditor is recognized by CHEA and/or the U.S. Department of Education. This is the only way to guarantee that the listed accreditor is not an accreditation mill, and it will protect students and preserve the quality and integrity of accreditation.

"Accreditation is meant to assure quality and integrity in higher education—not to be misused as a tool for fraud," said Nasser H. Paydar, President of CHEA. "These fake accreditors prey on the trust of students and the public, and we are committed to exposing and stopping them."

CHEA has a long-standing practice of seeking legislative protection for the public against degree mills and accreditation mills.

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