

Contents

Acknowledgements.....	v
Foreword.....	vii
Introduction.....	xi
CHAPTER ONE:	
A History of Degree Mills and Accreditation Mills.....	1
My First Degree Mill Case.....	2
Operation Dipscam.....	4
Dipscam and Accreditation Mills.....	6
<i>NAPNSC</i>	8
<i>ACSC</i>	9
<i>AASC</i>	9
<i>NAA</i>	9
<i>NAOCC</i>	10
<i>NASACU</i>	10
<i>ICACU</i>	10
<i>WASC</i>	10
A History of Degree Mills.....	11
The First Degree Mill Hearings: The U.S. Senate, 1924.....	15
The Second Set of Hearings: House of Representatives, 1984 (“Quackery—A \$10 Billion Scandal.”).....	16
Events Leading to A Third Set of Congressional Hearings.....	17
A Third Set of Hearings: U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, 2004 (“Bogus Degrees and Unmet Expectations: Are Taxpayer Dollars Subsidizing Diploma Mills?”).....	19
<i>“YHICA”: The Committee’s Degree Mill Farce</i>	20
<i>Degree Mill Revenues Make for Big Business</i>	20
<i>Another Call to Action</i>	21
A Fourth Set of Hearings: House of Representatives, 2004 (“Are Current Safeguards Protecting Taxpayers Against Diploma Mills?”).....	22
CHAPTER TWO:	
Legitimate Accreditation.....	27
The Purposes, Benefits, and Role of Accreditation.....	28
How the Department of Education Describes Diploma Mills and Unaccredited Institutions.....	35

CHAPTER THREE:	
What Accreditation Mills Say About “Accreditation”	39
Some Truth.....	39
Spins on the Truth.....	41
CHAPTER FOUR:	
Confusion by Design.....	47
A Cloak of Legitimacy	47
A System Lacking Clarity Invites Trouble.....	49
Keeping an Open Mind.....	51
CHAPTER FIVE:	
Accreditation Fraud From A Victim’s Point of View	55
The Difficulty in Determining Legitimacy	55
Who Accredits?	57
Regional vs. Professional Accreditation	58
Accreditation Does Not Mean Degree Acceptance.....	60
Laura Callahan’s Experience: A Personal Account	62
A Call to Protect Victims	64
CHAPTER SIX:	
Watchdog Organizations	67
Department of Education, COPA, CORPA and CHEA	67
Distance Education and Training Council.....	69
Other National Accrediting Agencies	69
AACRAO.....	69
American Council on Education.....	70
CHAPTER SEVEN:	
Exposing and Publicizing Educational Fraud	73
Fake Degree and Accreditation Mills Established by Government Bodies and the Press between 1938 and 2006.....	73
Degree and Accreditation Mills Exposed By the Press	78
CHAPTER EIGHT:	
Laws and Litigation.....	83
Federal Statutes	83
<i>Going After Spammers</i>	84
<i>Future Legislation against Degree Mills</i>	85
State Statutes.....	85
<i>Wyoming</i>	86
<i>Nevada</i>	86
<i>Texas</i>	87
<i>Maine</i>	88
<i>Illinois</i>	88
<i>North Dakota</i>	88
<i>Idaho</i>	89
<i>Kentucky</i>	89

<i>Mississippi</i>	90
<i>Washington</i>	90
<i>California</i>	91
<i>Oregon</i>	92
The Need for Credential Evaluation Regulation.....	93
Legal Action.....	93
<i>AACRAO</i>	94
<i>Regis University</i>	95
CHAPTER NINE:	
North Dakota Case Study (by Debra Huber).....	97
Application Sends Up the First Red Flags.....	98
An Internet Search Yields Big Clues.....	100
In-Person Meeting Solidifies Decision to Deny Application.....	101
A New Statute Strengthens Consumer Protection.....	102
Did the Mill Survive?.....	102
Governing Bodies.....	104
<i>Caveat Emptor</i>	104
CHAPTER TEN:	
The International Mill Enterprise.....	107
Exporting Degree Mill Business.....	107
Importing Degree Mill Business.....	108
Education Fraud Reaches Across The Globe.....	109
<i>Australia</i>	110
<i>Canada</i>	111
<i>China</i>	111
<i>Africa</i>	112
<i>India</i>	113
<i>Middle East</i>	113
<i>Europe</i>	114
<i>Philippines</i>	115
<i>United Kingdom</i>	115
CHAPTER ELEVEN:	
Battle Strategies.....	117
Look to the States.....	117
Specific Tactics.....	118
Learn From Those Leading the Fight.....	120
Our Call to Action.....	123
CHAPTER TWELVE:	
Challenges for Today and the Future.....	125
Trends in Education Fraud.....	125
What Lies Ahead?.....	127
Action and Hope for the Future.....	128
Diploma Integrity Protection Act.....	129

APPENDICES:

Appendix A: Glossary of Acronyms.....135

Appendix B: Recent Investigations of Degree and Accreditation Mills137

Columbia State University137

Hamilton University139

LaSalle University143

University of NorthWest 146

University Degree Program..... 148

St. Regis University152

Trinity Southern University.....160

Appendix C: Regulators, Attorneys General and Federal Investigative Agencies by State/Province163

Appendix D: Non-GAAP Accrediting Entities179

Appendix E: A “Tour” of Washington, D.C. Degree and Accreditation Mills189

Our Tour Has Come to An End.....192

Appendix F: 92 Things Bad and Fake Schools Do to Mislead People195

Accreditation Claims195

Other False or Misleading Claims195

False or Misleading Memberships and Affiliations 196

Fake or Meaningless Documents..... 196

The People Involved in These Schools 196

Advertising and Marketing197

Misleading or Fake Internet Presence197

The Trappings of Real Schools.....197

Links with Well-known People..... 198

Misleading “Acceptance of Degree” Claims 198

Misleading or Fake Physical Presence 198

Misleading Policies 198

References.....199