



# Department of Justice

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**Office of the United States Attorney**  
Acting United States Attorney Candace G. Hill  
Western District of Kentucky  
Contact: Dawn Masden  
Phone: (502) 582-5911  
Fax: (502) 582-5097

For information contact  
Kyle Edelen (859) 685-4811  
E-Mail: [Kyle.Edelen@usdoj.gov](mailto:Kyle.Edelen@usdoj.gov)

## **FORMER WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL PROGRAM FRAUD**

BOWLING GREEN, KY - Candace Hill, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky announced today that on February 9, 2009, the Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky filed an Information charging Katrina Phelps, of Bowling Green, Kentucky, with 1 count of federal program fraud. These charges allege that she intentionally misapplied funds from her employer, Western Kentucky University. Also filed with the Information was a signed Plea Agreement in which she admitted to intentionally misapplying \$27,087.20 from Western Kentucky University.

In the Plea Agreement, Phelps admits that, from March 2005 through December 2007, she intentionally misapplied \$27,087.20. She did this by causing 16 checks from a Department of Justice Grant received by Western Kentucky University to be issued to individuals that were not entitled to the checks. She then took the proceeds from these checks and intentionally misapplied them. As part of the Plea Agreement, Phelps agreed to pay full restitution to Western Kentucky University prior to sentencing. The maximum potential penalties for this offense are 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, an supervised release for a period of up to 3 years.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bryan Calhoun, and it was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.