

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
970 Broad Street, Seventh Floor  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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will0507.rel  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Former Assoc. Vice President at Stevens Institute of Technology  
Admits Embezzling \$264,000 from Funds to Assist Students

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(More)

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NEWARK – A former associate vice president at Stevens Institute of Technology pleaded guilty today to embezzling approximately \$264,000 from the U.S. Department of Education's Upward Bound program and other programs designed to assist disadvantaged inner-city New Jersey youth by preparing them for college admission, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced today.

Trevor G. Williams, 55, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to steal grant funds from Stevens between May 2000 and January 2002. His trial was to start Monday, May 12, according to Brad Harsch and Robert Kirsch, the Assistant U.S. Attorneys who handled the prosecution.

At the time of the embezzlements, Williams lived on campus at Stevens in Hoboken, where he obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in engineering in 1975. He was employed at the University since 1989. As associate vice president of Student Development and Services, Williams had oversight responsibility for the Upward Bound program as well as other similar programs funded by the State of New Jersey and private donors.

"This was like stealing from charity," said Christie. "They were government funds, taxpayer dollars, but the true victims are students who were the intended beneficiaries of the program."

The Department of Education awarded the grant money for Upward Bound to Stevens Institute, which was one of hundreds of colleges and universities throughout the country that administered the program with similar grants. Upward Bound was designed to provide academic, social, and cultural enrichment to targeted minors in need.

Instead of ensuring the proper use of the federal funds, as well as state-issued grants and other monies, Williams arranged dozens of payments to Kimberly L. Harrison, a co-conspirator, for the purported purpose of creating a computer database to track former students of the Upward Bound program. Harrison, who cashed all of the checks that Williams had procured for her, has been indicted but remains a fugitive.

During the plea hearing held before U.S. District Judge Dickinson R. Debevoise today, Williams admitted that he had no authority to arrange the illicit payments, purposely failed to notify the Department of Education of the unlawful payments, and that no computer database was ever produced to Stevens. As part of his plea deal with prosecutors, Williams admitted that he abused his position of trust at Stevens Institute in order to further the crime.

According to the Indictment, Harrison purported to own and operate Harrison Associates, a New York City business, which was to perform the database project under an initial

contract for \$13,000. She had befriended Williams, and had previously provided tutorial services to Stevens' students in mathematics, according to prosecutors.

At his plea hearing, Williams admitted that he submitted vendor invoices and purchase requisitions in order to improperly authorize an additional \$264,000 to Harrison for the non-existent database. To execute the fraud, Williams caused Stevens to issue approximately 45 separate checks to Harrison over the 17-month period.

Stevens Institute reported the crime to the U.S. Attorney's Office upon learning of it in 2002, and fully cooperated with the investigation and prosecution.

Williams faces a statutory maximum term of imprisonment of five years. Sentencing is scheduled for Aug. 18, 2008.

Christie credited Special Agents of the U.S. Department of Education, under the direction of Brian M. Hickey, Special Agent In Charge of the New York Office, and John P. Higgins Jr., Inspector General, of the Department of Education.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bradley A. Harsch and Robert A. Kirsch of the Criminal Division in Newark.

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Defense Counsel: Raymond M. Brown, Esq., of Roseland, N.J., and Alan Dexter Brown, Esq., of Newark, N.J.