

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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NEW JERSEY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING AREA COLLEGES

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Chidinma Amorha, 25, of Irvington, New Jersey, pleaded guilty before Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny, to wire fraud. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marie P. Grisanti, who is handling the case, stated that between May and June of 2011, the defendant presented fraudulent checks to Buffalo State College, Canisius College, and Niagara University to purchase books and other items from bookstores at each institution. Amorha knew that there were insufficient funds in the accounts the checks were written from to make the purchases.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of James C. Spero, Special Agent In Charge.

Sentencing is scheduled for June 22, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. EST, in Buffalo, N.Y., before Judge Skretny.

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