



November 11, 2009

### Westwood College's Statement to KTVT-Channel 11

- **Texas Workforce Commission:** The TWC recently raised some concerns regarding the licensure of Westwood's online college located in Denver, Colorado. Westwood is actively working with TWC to address these concerns. One of the many options being explored is having students take at least 25 percent of their courses in a physical classroom.

It is important to note that only Westwood College Online, not Westwood's three campuses in Texas, are not affected by TWC's review.

The TWC has extended its deadline to the end of November.

- **Lawsuit:** Westwood College is under attack by predatory Florida law firm, James, Hoyer, Newcomer, Smiljanich & Yanchunis. The firm earlier this year filed a nuisance case representing four former students in an attempt to pressure the school into a settlement. Westwood refused to give in to this pressure. Now the firm has filed a similar case in Texas on behalf of one of the plaintiffs in the first case. Using "online ambulance chasing" techniques, these lawyers are attempting to mislead the public through the traditional and social media outlets. It will not be as easy to sell that story in a court of law or arbitration.

To be clear, Westwood College stands by its actions, disputes the claims made in these cases, and looks forward to presenting the truth in the proper forum. Since neither case has been certified as a class, the total number of people represented between both suits is four.

For more on the law firm's spotty history with class action cases, visit:

<http://www.westwood.edu/facts/james-hoyer/>

- **Regional versus National Accreditation:** Westwood is currently accredited by two national accrediting agencies, both of which are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. This is important because the only way students can access federal grants and loans is by attending an accredited institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

In addition to national accreditation, Westwood College became a candidate for regional accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission and an affiliate of the North Central Association in October 2007. Westwood is two years into the candidacy process, which is typically a four-year process according to HLC.

Regional accreditation is an institutional-level accreditation status granted by one of six U.S. regional accrediting bodies. National accreditation is granted to specialized institutions—career colleges, technical schools, health or computer related institutions that offer at least an associate's degree.



- **Transferability of Credits:** Westwood makes every effort to be upfront and transparent about the difficulty students will face in transferring credits to other institutions, and fully acknowledges that it is difficult to transfer credits from Westwood to another institution. For most students it is not an issue because they go to Westwood to graduate and get jobs.

All Westwood College students must sign an enrollment agreement. See the section under “the applicant,” No. 5. The bolded section says: **Westwood College makes no guarantee of credit transfer. The decision regarding the transferability of credits is always at the discretion of the receiving school.** It requires the student to initial that statement.

(Document is attached)

5. Understand that the college may evaluate any post-secondary training or education I have completed at another accredited school. I will be given appropriate credit if, at the sole discretion of the school, the education or training meets the school standards for transfer credit. **Westwood College makes no guarantee of credit transfer. The decision regarding the transferability of credits is always at the discretion of the receiving school.** INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Also, transfer of credits information is included on Westwood’s Web site (<http://www.westwood.edu/admissions/transferring-college-credit/>). It takes on click to get the information.

It’s also listed in bold on page 27 of the student handbook. Here’s a screen grab of the item. As you can see it is bolded (Document is attached):

- **Background on Jessica Miller**
  - We are not aware that Ms. Miller ever tried to transfer credits to another school. Westwood student services representatives have no record of her requesting transcripts for this purpose.
  - We did, however, accept credits from other schools she attended when she transferred in.
  - Ms. Miller signed the disclosure agreement stating she fully understood the difficulty she would have if she attempted to transfer credits to another school.
  - Ms. Miller does not owe \$50,000 to Westwood College, and attended other school prior to enrolling at Westwood and that may include loans from those schools.



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### About Westwood

Westwood College is an institution of higher learning with 17 campuses across the country, as well as a top-ranked [online school](#). Westwood offers a unique hands-on, career-focused curriculum providing three-year bachelor's degrees in in-demand fields. More than 20,000 Westwood graduates have transformed their lives by obtaining the skills, tools, experience and connections necessary to achieve meaningful careers. Westwood College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) and the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), depending on the campus. Westwood is also a candidate for regional accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. For more information, please visit <http://www.Westwood.edu>

### College