



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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FORMER HEAD WCC BASKETBALL COACH FACING 18-COUNT INDICTMENT FOR USING FALSIFIED AND FORGED TRANSCRIPTS TO GET PLAYERS ACCEPTED AT NCAA SCHOOLS

WHITE PLAINS – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Acting Westchester County District Attorney James A. McCarty today announced the indictment of Westchester Community College’s (“WCC”) former head basketball coach on charges that he used forged and falsified student transcripts to help players earn spots in National Collegiate Athletic Association (“NCAA”) teams at four-year schools.

Tyrone Mushatt, 43, of Boller Avenue, the Bronx, was indicted by a Westchester County Grand Jury and arraigned today on charges including 17 counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D Felony, and one count of Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree, a misdemeanor.

The investigation found, and the charges allege, that from 2012 through 2014, Mushatt, while leading the WCC men’s basketball program, possessed falsified and forged official transcripts to make it appear that certain players took courses and received grades that they did not. Mushatt forwarded the falsified transcripts to several NCAA four-year schools including St. John’s University, Florida A & M University, Concordia College, Quinnipiac University, and Wilmington University, to help enable these players to gain entry into their basketball programs. In many instances, the players’ real transcripts did not reflect sufficient credits, subject matter proficiency, and grades to have allowed them to transfer to the four-year schools to which they had applied.

“This defendant abdicated his responsibility as a college coach and brazenly and methodically subverted the integrity of the college athletic system,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “His repeated abuse of his authority violated the trust instilled in his position and undermined students who work hard, both academically and athletically, to achieve their dreams.”

Between May 11, 2012 and October 31, 2014, the defendant, a former Westchester Community College head men's basketball coach submitted forged Westchester Community College transcripts to colleges and universities in order to facilitate the transfer of eight WCC basketball players to four-year colleges and universities.

- On May 11, 2012 the defendant possessed a forged transcript of grades purporting to be issued by Westchester Community College, relating to a specific WCC student, which was provided by the defendant to personnel employed by Wilmington University in an effort to fraudulently establish eligibility of that student to be enrolled and participate in collegiate athletics at Wilmington University.

- On May 13, 2013, the defendant possessed a forged transcript of grades purporting to be issued by Westchester Community College, which was provided by the defendant to personnel employed by Farmingdale State College in an effort to fraudulently establish eligibility of the student to be enrolled and participate in collegiate athletics at Farmingdale State College.
- On August 1, 2013 and August 31, 2013, the defendant possessed a forged transcript of grades purporting to be issued by Westchester Community College, relating to a specific WCC student, which was provided by the defendant to personnel employed by the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University in an effort to fraudulently establish eligibility of the student to be enrolled and participate in collegiate athletics at C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University.
- On June 11, 2014, in the parking lot of the Crossroads Shopping Center located at 459 Tarrytown Road, Greenburgh, New York, the defendant possessed a forged transcript of grades purporting to be issued by Westchester Community College which was personally handed to an employee of St. John's University in an effort to fraudulently establish eligibility of the student to be enrolled and participate in collegiate athletics at St. John's University.
- On May 29, 2014 and July 31, 2014, the defendant possessed a forged transcript of grades purporting to be issued by Westchester Community College, which was personally handed to an employee of Quinnipiac University in an effort to fraudulently establish eligibility of said student to be enrolled and participate in collegiate athletics at Quinnipiac University.
- On July 19, 2014, the defendant possessed a forged transcript of grades purporting to be issued by Westchester Community College, which was provided by the defendant to personnel employed by Concordia College in an effort to fraudulently establish eligibility of said student to be enrolled and participate in collegiate athletics at Concordia College.
- On July 29, 2014, the defendant possessed a forged transcript of grades purporting to be issued by Westchester Community College, which was provided by the defendant to personnel employed by Florida A&M University in an effort to fraudulently establish eligibility of said student to be enrolled and participate in collegiate athletics at Florida A&M.
- On August 4, 2014, the defendant possessed a forged transcript of grades purporting to be issued by Westchester Community College, which was provided by the defendant to personnel employed by Florida A&M University in an effort to fraudulently establish eligibility of said student to be enrolled and participate in collegiate athletics at Florida A&M.
- On October 1, 2014 and October 31, 2014 the defendant possessed a forged transcript of grades purporting to be issued by Westchester Community College, which was personally handed to an employee of St. John's University in an effort to fraudulently establish eligibility of said student to be enrolled and participate in collegiate athletics at St. John's University.

The defendant either mailed, faxed or hand-delivered the forged student transcripts to the above representatives.

Westchester Community College fully cooperated from the outset with this investigation.

Mushatt was arraigned on the indictment this morning in Westchester County Court. He is due back in court September 1.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked Acting Westchester County District Attorney McCarty and his office for prosecuting this case.

The charges are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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