



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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STATE EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO FALSIFYING RESUME WITH FAKE COLLEGE CREDENTIALS

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced today the guilty plea of a former State employee with a prior criminal record on charges she falsified her resume by indicating she had Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from universities she never attended, and never actually received any higher education degrees at all.

Qiana Joy-L Woods, 38, of Broadway, Menands, pleaded guilty in Albany County Court today to Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a felony. Simultaneously in court, she submitted a letter of resignation from her State job effective today.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott’s found that Woods, when hired by the State Department of Motor Vehicles as a customer representative in 2013, provided a resume claiming she had a Bachelor’s Degree from Morgan State University in Baltimore, but she never actually attended the school. The resume she submitted to get her more recent job as an office assistant at the State Thruway Authority in 2014 also falsely indicated the degree from Morgan. Three months ago, while still working at the Thruway Authority, she applied for an office assistant job at the State Office of General Services where she submitted a resume indicating the Morgan degree as well as a Master’s Degree from the State University of New York’s University at Albany, where she also never attended school. Woods has no college degrees whatsoever.

The investigation also found she was hired over other job candidates because of her false representation of earning college degrees. Also, the frauds against the State all occurred either while awaiting adjudication for a 2012 larceny arrest or while serving a sentence of probation following her conviction of that prior crime.

“This defendant’s criminal deceptions cost other qualified candidates a potential career in public service,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “I will continue using the resources of my office to pursue anyone who commits fraud while in government service.”

Woods is due for sentencing in Albany County Court on Dec. 1.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the State Thruway Authority for their assistance with the investigation, the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest and Albany County District Attorney P. David Soares and his office for prosecuting this matter.

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