



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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FORMER HEAD WCC BASKETBALL COACH PLEADS GUILTY TO USING FALSIFIED AND FORGED TRANSCRIPTS TO GET PLAYERS ACCEPTED AT NCAA SCHOOLS

WHITE PLAINS – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the felony guilty plea of Westchester Community College’s (“WCC”) former head basketball coach on charges that he used forged and falsified student transcripts to help players earn positions on National Collegiate Athletic Association (“NCAA”) teams at four-year schools.

Tyrone Mushatt, 44, of Boller Avenue, the Bronx, pleaded guilty today in Westchester County Court to Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a felony, and Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree, a misdemeanor. He is due to return for sentencing June 6, 2017.

Inspector General Leahy Scott’s investigation found 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 enable these players to join the schools 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 dispensed with any pretense of integrity in his role as a coach by perverting the college athletic system through a brazen fraud,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “His actions brought shame to the athletic program he oversaw and utterly undermined the hard work of honest students who were hoping to achieve their dreams.”

The investigation found that between May 11, 2012 and October 31, 2014, Mushatt, 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 Mushatt 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, Mushatt 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, Mushatt 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.
- On June 11, 2014, in the parking lot of the Crossroads Shopping Center located at 459 Tarrytown Road, Greenburgh, New York, Mushatt 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, Mushatt 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, Mushatt 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, Mushatt 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, Mushatt 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 Mushatt 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.

Mushatt 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.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked Westchester County District Attorney Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr., and his office for prosecuting this case.

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