



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Letizia Tagliaferro

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SUNY AT BUFFALO ARCHITECT PAYS OVER \$15,000 RESTITUTION AND RESIGNS OVER TIME ABUSE

BUFFALO – New York State Inspector General Letizia Tagliaferro announced today the guilty plea and resignation of a State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNY at Buffalo) Project Manager with the Facilities Planning and Design Department who defrauded the state of more than \$15,000 in public wages by reporting he was at his university job when he was not, including times when he was working an outside job with private employers.

James D. Spratz, 53, of Lancaster, a licensed architect, resigned from State service, paid \$15,622 in restitution for the time abuse, and pleaded guilty to Disorderly Conduct in the Amherst Town Court.

An investigation by the Offices of the Inspector General found that between June 17, 2016 and September 30, 2017, Spratz falsely reported to SUNY at Buffalo that he was working at his university job when he was not. During some of those periods, he was instead working for and being paid by private outside firms that do architectural design and construction management work. As a result of his intentional misrepresentations, Spratz improperly obtained salary from the State totaling \$15,622.

“This defendant’s illegal double billing came at the expense of students and taxpayers, making him unfit for public service,” said **Inspector General Tagliaferro**. “We will pursue any employee who corrupts the integrity of their government role and violates the public trust.”

Inspector General Tagliaferro thanked SUNY at Buffalo for their assistance with this investigation, the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest and Erie County District Attorney John J. Flynn and his office for prosecuting this matter.

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