

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 16, 2009

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TWC Issues Cease and Desist Order to Dallas Health Career School

AUSTIN — The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has issued a final cease and desist order against a Dallas-area career school that has been operating without a certificate of approval. Career Academy of Texas Inc. (CATI) in Grapevine was training students to work as nurse's aides, medication aides and medical assistants. CATI was issued the order for failure to obtain a certificate of approval or exemption as required by the Texas Education Code.

“These operations exploit vulnerable individuals with false promises of careers at a time when health care workers are in such high demand,” said TWC Chairman Tom Pauken. “This will serve as a warning to any other schools considering offering unlicensed, unapproved programs.”

Health care professions top the fastest-growing occupations in Texas, with an estimated growth rate of more than 33 percent over the next eight years.

“Career schools must obtain a TWC certificate of approval,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “We want to make sure these types of schools do not take advantage of students looking to join the workforce in the health care industry.”

A career school traditionally trains students for a field in a business, trade, or a technical or industrial occupation, or for avocational or personal improvement. An order to cease and desist operating is issued to a business only after a hearing and a written decision finds that the business is not in compliance with the Texas Education Code requirements. If TWC has reason to believe that a school has violated the order, TWC may refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office for enforcement.

“The great need for health care workers in Texas and around the country has led to some unscrupulous owners operating uncertified schools,” said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. “These schools take advantage of students who are paying large sums of money.”

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Cease & Desist**

TWC staff statewide monitors career school certification compliance, and can impose sanctions and/or an administrative penalty of up to \$1,000 per day per violation for noncompliance. The Office of the Attorney General enforces cease and desist orders and may choose to collect civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per day per violation. Pursuing such cases is the function of TWC's Regulatory Integrity Division, which is responsible for enforcing all regulatory statutes within the jurisdiction of the agency, encompassing career schools, child labor, Unemployment Insurance and workforce board sanctions.

Prospective career school students can access a list of schools with current certificates of approval on the TWC Directory of Licensed Institutions on the Career Schools and Colleges Web page at <http://propschools.texasworkforce.org>.

For more information, prospective students can call the TWC Career Schools Division at (512) 936-3100 or e-mail career.schools@twc.state.tx.us.

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.