



VETERANS EDUCATION SUCCESS

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Michael Miedzinski

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Chair Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Miedzinski. I am a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and Army, and a former resident of Patuxent River, Maryland. While living in Patuxent River, I attended Devry in the 2012/2013 academic year. I was recruited at a college transfer fair at the community college I was attending. After a number of red flags, I began to realize I had made a mistake in choosing to attend Devry. From the predatory financial practices during enrollment, to the non-existent educational experience in the classroom, Devry deceived me in every way possible.

The predatory financial practices of Devry for me came in the form of pressuring me to take out extra loans, even though my Post 9/11 GI bill should've covered my tuition and fees. I later found out that they did this with every student that enrolled. Very few students questioned their advice because they believed that Devry was looking out for the best interests of the students.

Another Shocking discovery I made after starting my classes was that final exams were available for purchase on line, and even professors would advertise them to students. It didn't seem like they were at all interested in my education, but instead they only wanted to make sure we got a passing grade. Some students weren't fully aware of how they were being cheated, but many of us recognized that we were paying for an education that we weren't getting.

I soon found out through my employer that a degree from Devry is not recognized as an applicable degree (Dept of Defense). I decided then to drop out and try and find my way out of the mess Devry had made with their manipulative and deceptive tactics. I eventually enrolled in online courses at a nonprofit college, Western Governors University, where I immediately felt like my military benefits were being put to good use. With an amazing mentor program and tons of resources, I could instantly tell that the quality of education I was receiving was far superior to whatever it was they were doing at Devry.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you will take my testimony to heart when you are considering policy that will help protect future student veterans from predatory for-profit schools that only see them as a dollar sign.