

Response to Channel 11 Newscast of October 22, 2007

Last night KHOU-TV made several false and misleading statements concerning the doctoral degree I received from California Coast University in 2004. The degree was described as “fake”. “phony”, “illegal” and the product of a degree mill. The degree is neither fake nor phony, nor is California Coast a degree mill. However, in light of a state law which allows the Higher Education Coordinating Board to declare California Coast degrees illegal for certain specified purposes I have removed all reference to my degree from that school from my educational information.

While the comparable quality of any school’s programs may be subject to reasonable debate, I believe it is false and patently unfair to describe California Coast University as a degree mill. They are accredited for Bachelor and Masters Degrees by the Distance Education Training Council (DETC), recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and by the US Department of Education. Now that the DETC is authorized by the federal government to accredit professional doctoral programs, I would anticipate that the school will seek accreditation for those degree programs in the near future.

As for my own formal education credentials I will continue to list my Master of Business Administration Degree from Pepperdine University (1981), my completion of the Advanced Management Program of the University of Texas Graduate School of Business (1979) and my Associate in Arts Degree from South Texas Junior College (1968).

As I told the KHOU reporter, I did not seek the doctoral degree to impress anyone but me. I sought an academic challenge in 1999 and I completed the work and received the degree in 2004. I am proud of the effort I made through California Coast and I regret the embarrassing misinformation and slanderous comments directed at that school and its students and graduates as a result of my academic effort.

Robert Hebert
Fort Bend County Judge