



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

Mr. Raymund A. Paredes  
Commissioner of Higher Education  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
P. O. Box 12788  
Austin, Texas 78711

FEB 16 2005

Dear Mr. Paredes:

Thank you for your January 14, 2005, letter in which you advised this Office about the personal information on students that may have been stored on a laptop computer that was recently stolen from your building. Your letter explained the steps that you took to immediately notify students regarding the information theft and the helpful information that you provided the students to assist them in contacting the credit bureaus regarding the matter. You state that you reported this incident to the Austin Police Department and that it is currently under investigation. You also state that the Coordinating Board is reviewing your processes and will ensure the security of any personal information that it receives.

We appreciate the seriousness with which the Coordinating Board takes its responsibilities under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Your quick and thorough response to this matter serves as a model to others of an agency that establishes and monitors appropriate safeguards to protect against the unauthorized access to or disclosure of information from education records and to maintain the integrity of information in those records.

Thank you for your concern and prompt action in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

LeRoy S. Rooker  
Director  
Family Policy Compliance Office