

From: Perez, Marianne  
Date: April 26, 2011 11:30:58 PM EDT  
To: Martin Smith  
Subject: RE: PBS FRONTLINE

Hi, Martin,

Bridgepoint Education's universities are deeply committed to providing the access and tools they need to earn high-quality college degrees affordably. Statements by two former Ashford University employees are completely contrary to the school's policies, standards and practices, particularly with respect to veterans, military students and their families. Ashford works very closely with our military liaisons to ensure that our practices meet the military's stringent requirements for contacting and working with prospective military students. Bringing high-quality educational opportunities to veterans and military personnel who safeguard this nation and their families is an important part of our mission as an educator. For the details of Ashford University's code of conduct for admissions counselors, please visit <http://bpitransparency.com/home/admissions-code-of-ethics>.

Military students account for more than 17 percent of Ashford University's student population. Military benefits apply to all active duty, National Guard, Reservists and spouses, dependents eligible for survivor benefits, plus civilian Department of Defense employees and separated veterans/retirees still using their GI Bill. Our Ashford University has been selected by the U.S. Army as a Letter of Instruction (LOI) school and by the Coast Guard to become a SOCCOAST-4 member. In addition, Ashford was named to the 2010 List of Military Friendly Schools by G.I. Jobs magazine and as one of the top military friendly schools by Military Advanced Education magazine. Ashford University is very proud of its efforts to support the educational development of our military students and their families, and is honored to help them pursue their academic goals.

Importantly, Bridgepoint Education's academic institutions are among the best value for serving this segment of the population. For example, in their use of G.I. Bill dollars to provide veterans education in 2010, Bridgepoint trained 2,212 veterans at an average cost of \$3,920 per veteran, considerably below that of most other private sector colleges and universities.

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