

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95833 P.O. Box 980818, West Sacramento, CA 95798-0818 P (916) 431-6959 F (916) 263-1897 www.bppe.ca.gov



MODIFIED CITATION: ASSESSMENT OF FINE AND ORDER OF ABATEMENT

To: Xanthi Gionis, Operator Aristotle University 1174 East Main Street #36, El Cajon, CA 92021

INSTITUTION CODE: Unapproved CITATION NUMBER: 1314001 CITATION ISSUANCE/SERVICE DATE: 08/20/13 AMENDED CITATION ISSUANCE/SERVICE DATE: 01/28/15 MODIFIED CITATION ISSUANCE/SERVICE DATE: 08/21/15 DUE DATE: 09/20/15 FINE AMOUNT: \$ 50,000.00

ORDER OF ABATEMENT INCLUDED: YES

Yvette Johnson issues this Modified Citation: Assessment of Fine and Order of Abatement (Citation) in her official capacity as Enforcement Chief of the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau) of the California Department of Consumer Affairs.

CITATION

A Modified Citation is hereby issued to Xanthi Gionis, Operator of Aristotle University located at 6185 Paseo Del Norte #200, Carlsbad, California 92011; 701 Palomar Airport Road #240, Carlsbad, California 92011; and at all other Aristotle University locations pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 148; California Education Code (CEC) Section 94944; and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (5 CCR) Section 75020 for the violation(s) described below. Your payment of the administrative fine shall not constitute an admission of the violation(s) charged.

VIOLATION

 # The California Education Code (CEC) and the California Code of Regulations (CCR). Below you will find the section(s) you are charged with violating.
1. Violation: CEC 94886 – Approval to Operate Required. "Except as exempted in Article 4 (commencing with Section 94874) or in compliance with the transition provisions in Article 2 (commencing with Section 94802), a person shall not open, conduct, or do business as a private postsecondary educational institution in this state without obtaining an approval to operate under this chapter."

The Bureau finds that Aristotle University, a private postsecondary institution, has been operating, providing instruction for a Master's Degree in Public Health, and collecting tuition from enrollees

since 2011 without obtaining an approval to operate, in violation of CEC Section 94886 as specified above. The Bureau further finds that Xanthi Gionis operates Aristotle University.

Order of Abatement:

- 1. The Bureau finds that Aristotle University ceased to operate in February, 2013. Aristotle University, through Xanthi Gionis, shall continue to cease operation as a private postsecondary educational institution at all locations throughout the State of California.
- 2. Aristotle University, through Xanthi Gionis, shall continue to cease recruiting or enrolling students and cease all instructional services and advertising in any form or type of media (including Internet sites), until such time as approval to operate is obtained from the Bureau.

The fine for this violation is <u>\$50,000.00</u>

TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE FINE DUE: \$50,000.00

ASSESSMENT OF FINE

In accordance with CEC Section 94944; and 5 CCR Section 75020(b) the Bureau hereby issues this assessment of fine in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the violation(s) described above. Monthly payments in the amount of \$1,000 are due and payable to the Bureau no later than the 5th of each month for 50 months. **The first payment is due no later than September 5, 2015.** Payment will be accepted via check or money order. No personal checks or credit cards are accepted.

ORDER OF ABATEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of 5 CCR Section 75020 the Bureau hereby issues the order(s) of abatement described above.

The citation carries an administrative fine of \$50,000.00. Respondent shall pay the Bureau \$50,000 in 50 monthly payments of \$1,000. All payments must be received by the Bureau no later than the 5th day of each month. The first payment is due to the Bureau no later than September 5, 2015. The last payment is to be completed no later than November 5, 2020. Payment of the fine shall not constitute admission of the violation(s) charged.

BACKGROUND

The Bureau previously issued a Citation: Assessment of Fine and Order of Abatement No. 1213016 to the Institution, Xanthi Gionis and Thomas Gionis on May 2, 2013, which was withdrawn without prejudice on June 21, 2013.

The Bureau's records indicate that Aristotle University does not have an approval to operate and Aristotle University is not approved to offer a Master's Degree in Public Health. On February 22, 2013, the Bureau issued an Order of Abatement ordering Aristotle University to cease operating as a Private Postsecondary Educational Institution.

On January 28, 2015, the Bureau issued an amended Citation: Assessment of Fine and Order of Abatement ordering Aristotle University to cease operating as a private Postsecondary Educational Institution and to provide a refund to all students enrolled in the Master's Degree in Public Health program.

On August 21, 2015, a Modified Citation No. 1314002 was also issued to Thomas Gionis for violation of CEC 94886.

PAYMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINE

Payment of the administrative fine must be made to the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education by cashier's check or money order. Please include the Citation number on the payment of the fine assessment. Payments shall be mailed to:

Jody Wright, Discipline Citation Program Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 400 Sacramento, CA 95833

Failure for an applicant or institution to abate the violation(s) listed above or to pay the administrative fine within the time allowed may result in denial of an application for an approval or renewal to operate; disciplinary action, and/or collection action. The Bureau will promptly take all appropriate action to enforce this Citation and recover the civil penalties prescribed therein or found to be due after a hearing.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding this Modified Citation, or desire further information, please contact Jody Wright, Enforcement Analyst, at (916) 431-6940 or <u>jody.wright@dca.ca.gov</u>.

Enforcement Chief

<u>August 21, 2015</u> Date

Enclosure

Payment of Fine

Declaration of Service by Certified and First Class Mail