



Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
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MODIFIED CITATION: ASSESSMENT OF FINE AND ORDER OF ABATEMENT

To: Thomas Gionis
3500 Barranca Parkway, Suite 315
Irvine, California 92606

INSTITUTION CODE: Unapproved
CITATION NUMBER: 1314002
AMENDED CITATION ISSUANCE/SERVICE DATE: 01/28/15
MODIFIED CITATION ISSUANCE/SERVICE DATE: 08/21/15
MODIFIED DUE DATE: 09/20/15
FINE AMOUNT: \$ 5,000.00
ORDER OF ABATEMENT INCLUDED: YES

Yvette Johnson issues this 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 Citation is hereby issued to Thomas Gionis for allegedly operating Aristotle University located at 6185 Paseo Del Norte #200, Carlsbad, California 92011; 701 Palomar Airport Road #240, Carlsbad, California 92011; 560 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, California 92011 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 any monies related to this Citation shall not constitute an admission of the violation(s) charged.

VIOLATION RE: ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY

Table with 2 columns: # and description. Row 1: # 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." At the conclusion of the Bureau's investigation, 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 from 2011 to 2013 without obtaining an approval to operate, in violation of CEC Section 94886 as specified above. The Bureau alleges that Thomas Gionis was an operator of Aristotle University.

**Order of Abatement:**

1. The Bureau finds that Aristotle University ceased to operate in February, 2013. Aristotle University shall continue to cease operation as a private postsecondary educational institution at all locations throughout the State of California.
2. Aristotle University shall discontinue 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.
3. Thomas Gionis shall pay restitution in the amount of \$55,000 to the students identified in Attachment A to this Modified Citation within 120 days after service of the Modified Citation.

The modified administrative fine for this violation is \$5,000.00

**TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE FINE DUE: \$5,000.00**

ASSESSMENT OF FINE

In accordance with CEC 94944; and 5 CCR Section 75020(b) the Bureau hereby issues this assessment of fine in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the violation(s) described above. **Payment must be made, to the Bureau, within 30 days from the date of service of the Citation.**

ORDER OF ABATEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of 5 CCR Section 75020 the Bureau hereby issues the order(s) of abatement described above. Evidence of compliance with the order(s) of abatement must be submitted, to the Bureau, within 120 days from the date of service of the Modified Citation.

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. The Bureau finds that Aristotle University ceased to operate in February, 2013

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. 1314001 was also issued to Xanthi 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

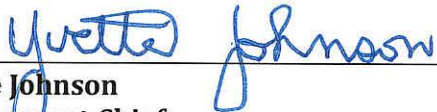
Failure for an applicant or institution to abate the violation(s) listed above or to pay the administrative fine within the time allowed may result in denial of an application for an approval or renewal to operate; disciplinary action, and/or collection action. The Bureau will promptly take all appropriate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

PAYMENT OF STUDENT REFUNDS

Payment of restitution to students listed in Attachment A shall be made by cashier's check or money order in the amount set forth in Attachment A on or before 120 days after service of the Modified Citation, or by December 19, 2015. The cashier's check or money order shall be sent by certified mail to the student at the address listed for the student in Attachment A. Proofs of payment of the student refunds are due to the Bureau 120 days after service of the Modified Citation.

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 [jody.wright@dca.ca.gov](mailto:jody.wright@dca.ca.gov).

  
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**Yvette Johnson**  
**Enforcement Chief**

August 21, 2015  
**Date**

Enclosure

- Payment of Fine
- Declaration of Service by Certified and First Class Mail