

# The CHEYENNE HERALD

THE LOCAL ADVOCACY JOURNAL

## Newport International University Another one bites the dust in Wyo!



How - and why - the Wyoming Department of Education beat the Cheyenne Herald to the punch on this announcement

Story introduced on the Cheyenne Herald website - May 14, 2009

by Dave FEATHERLY

The nation, hell, make that the world, is used to reading announcements originating in Wyoming having to do with diploma mills (I prefer "degree sellers") coming from the Cheyenne Herald.

The daily newspaper in Cheyenne just has no interest in this subject and the Wyoming Department of Education does the minimal amount required to deal with it. TV? Hardly.

So, when a press release came from the Department of Education on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, announcing that one of the last of the illegitimate operations selling degrees was ceasing to do business in Wyoming, calls and e-mails came to the Cheyenne Herald, asking: "How could you let those guys beat you to the punch?"

I will tell readers, local and on the internet, just how this happened - how and why (in my opinion) the WDOE finally acted like they were on top of something and made a public pronouncement.

Newport International University operated from Laramie, not Cheyenne, so I didn't have to trip over them every time I turned around here in the Capital City. Because they were 45 miles away, they were down my list of "to do's."

Getting rid of the multiple degree sellers that called Cheyenne home, while they opened their mail and deposited the ill-gotten checks from basement and second floor offices in mostly run-down downtown office buildings, has been my priority. Once action was forced on the Wyoming Legislature, bogus operations in the other Wyoming towns and cities would have to follow suit and amscray.

Warren National University announced to their "students" and the world that they had been put out of business in Wyoming and even directed their unsuspecting students to transfer their credits to another former Wyoming degree seller, Preston University. At the time WNU told their students about transferring credits to the Alabama vagabond, Preston's license to sell degrees from Alabama had expired. Before many tried to transfer credits, Alabama lowered the boom on Preston and told them to rent a U-Haul and get out of Montgomery. As Cheyenne Herald readers know, PU did just that - claiming an office in Los Angeles as their new home. Tomorrow, it could be another.

Warren National University is "appealing" the decision of the State of Wyoming to revoke its license and registration to sell degrees from their downtown Cheyenne basement office. They have the same chance of getting that "conviction" overturned as other thieves do when caught on video.

Other than showing Warren National University on the WDOE website (under private postsecondary degree granting "institutions" still operating, albeit on life support), "Newport International University" also appeared - also showing that they had made application for accreditation. Knowing that NIU had appealed the Legislature's authority to make a law requiring nefarious operations such as theirs to become accredited or cease operations in Wyoming and had lost at the Wyoming Supreme Court, it was obvious that the WDOE website needed updating. *Another unaccredited, but new, real college is also shown. It is Catholic College and it is seeking legitimate accreditation and will gain it as the process moves along. CC Students will earn degrees, not buy 'em.*

The WDOE unexpectedly put out a press release about NIU on May 12, 2009. It said:

### Newport International no longer operating in Wyoming

**Cheyenne -- Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Jim McBride, announced today that another non-accredited private post-secondary institution has left Wyoming.**

*Effective April 24, 2009, Newport International University voluntarily withdrew its registration with the Wyoming Department of Education.*

*As a result, this school and any affiliated organizations or campuses which utilized registration 09-148-30 to operate are no longer authorized to conduct business as a private post secondary educational institution in the state of Wyoming.*

*"We are one step closer to ensuring that all Wyoming private post-secondary degree granting educational institutions are compliant with the legislative requirements set in 2006," McBride said.*

*"The Department of Education and the Wyoming Legislature have worked toward this goal for the past three years and we will continue these efforts until all private degree granting institutions are accredited."*

McBride did not mention in his press release two things: First, that NIU's appeal of the Legislature's law-making authority was decided by the Wyoming Supreme Court on June 25, 2008 (almost a year ago) and modified on July 15, 2008. And, that the Cheyenne Herald has been pursuing this NIU story of desertion for several days.

Apparently, McBride is determined to try to prevent this specialty publication from releasing news his office should be aware of first - not knowing that Preston continued to operate from Wyo, etc.

The chronology and communications made between the Cheyenne Herald and McBride's WDOE regarding Newport International University:

**Cheyenne Herald to WDOE - May 3, 2009, 5:35 pm**

*If a cease and desist letter has been sent by the Wyoming Department of Education to Newport International University, will you forward me a copy of that letter.*

*Thank you for your continuing cooperation. I appreciate it.*

**WDOE to Cheyenne Herald - May 4, 2009, 8:20 am**

*Thank you for your e-mail. At this time no cease and desist has been issued to the school. Newport International University has voluntarily agreed to discontinue any operation in the state.*

*Thank you.*

**Cheyenne Herald to WDOE - May 4, 2009, 8:34 am**

*If Newport has reduced that "promise" in writing to WDOE, can you provide me a copy of that letter? Thanks.*

**WDOE to Cheyenne Herald - May 4, 2009, 8:41 am**

*We do have this information in writing. However, I am not sure if there is a confidentiality issue regarding this particular school. If you could write a formal letter requesting information and documentation relating to Newport International University and send/fax it to the Wyoming Department of Education I'll be happy to fulfill your public records request to the best of my ability. If you need fax or address information, please don't hesitate to let me know. Thanks.*

**Cheyenne Herald to WDOE - May 4, 2009, 10:59 am**

*What is the fax no. there and I'll make the request this afternoon.*

**WDOE to Cheyenne Herald - May 4, 2009, 11:00 am**

*Sure, the number is 1-307-777-xxxx*

**FAX was sent later that night - Scroll down**

**Cheyenne Herald to WDOE - May 5, 2009, 11:37 pm**

*Did you receive my FAX for the public records request? My confirmation page didn't print so I couldn't tell.*

**WDOE to Cheyenne Herald - May 6, 2009, 8:22 am**

*I did receive the fax and I apologize for not responding yesterday. I am actually working on compiling everything that I have that fulfills this request. Typically what happens is I arrange a time for you to come to the WDE and look through all the documentation. I will make copies of anything that you want to keep and have them to you by the end of that day - usually before you leave.*

*It's going to take me a little time to produce everything, but would prefer that I e-mail or call you to set up an appointment.*

**Cheyenne Herald to WDOE - May 6, 2009, 10:12 am**

*You can call me on my cell phone (xxx-xxxx) or just e-mail me at this address when you're ready. Whichever is easier for you.*

**WDOE to Cheyenne Herald - May 11, 2009, 8:29 am**

*I haven't forgotten about you. I'm working on your request as quickly as I can. I'll be in touch this week. Thank you for your patience.*

CH Note: The WDOE press release was e-mailed May 12, 2009 at 11:03 am. As of May 14, 2009 11:45 MDT, the Cheyenne Herald has not been provided the requested public records.

[www.cheyenneherald.com](http://www.cheyenneherald.com) --- E-mail: [cheyenneherald@yahoo.com](mailto:cheyenneherald@yahoo.com)

**THE CHEYENNE  
HERALD**  
*Cheyenne's Best-Read Publication*

May 4, 2009

Ms. Samantha Mills  
Wyoming Department of Education  
Private School Program Manager

Fax: (307) 777-6234

Ms. Mills;

Pursuant to W.S. § 16-4-202(a) and 16-4-204(a), I hereby make request for public documents related to the cessation or termination of business in Wyoming on the part of Newport International University (Newport), after the date of Newport's appeal denial by the Wyoming Supreme Court. That was June 25, 2008.

Specifically, I ask for copies of any written communication (letters, e-mails, notes made from telephone conversations, etc.) from Newport International University to the Wyoming Department of Education (WDOE) and from the Wyoming Department of Education to Newport International University related to a claimed application made by Newport for accreditation and subsequent withdrawal or rejection of that application.

If the number of pages is small, providing them as e-mail attachments would be preferable. If they are numerous and/or if there is a charge for such copies, I will be glad to come into the WDOE offices to retrieve such copies and pay appropriate fees. Your call.

Dave Featherly  
Publisher and Editor  
The Cheyenne Herald

e-mail: [dave@cheyenneherald.com](mailto:dave@cheyenneherald.com) website: [www.cheyenneherald.com](http://www.cheyenneherald.com)  
(307) 637-2879

**The Cheyenne Herald – P.O. Box 2208 – Cheyenne WY 82003**