



August 10, 2006

Dear Colleagues:

The Georgia Student Finance Commission has been informed of a scam being perpetrated involving a possible breach of security for students applying online for the Pell Grant.

A Georgia student applied for the Pell Grant from a home computer on Monday evening, and shortly afterward was contacted on his cell phone by a woman claiming she represented First American Consulting Group Customer Service Department. She said they were the official agent for Pell and asked for a \$300.00 processing fee via credit or debit card to expedite his payment. The student said he would talk to his parents and call her back.

The incident has been reported to the FBI and the Sheriff's office in the Georgia county where it happened. Also, it was reported to the Georgia Student Finance Commission by one of the University System institutions. Please warn your students to be wary of any businesses offering to expedite scholarship or grant applications or payments for a fee and to report any instances to the appropriate authorities.

Tim Connell  
President  
Georgia Student Finance Commission