



STATEMENT OF PAULINE ABERNATHY
Vice President, The Institute for College Access & Success

CONTACTS: [Shannon Serrato](#), 510-318-7915
[Gretchen Wright](#), 202-371-1999

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Statement on Education Department Announcement on Borrower Relief for Defrauded Students

“Today, the U.S. Department of Education [announced](#) new findings of fraud at 71 former campuses of Corinthian Colleges. The Department’s action makes students who attended these campuses eligible for full federal student loan discharges. Similar Department findings at more than 30 other Corinthian campuses previously made students from those campuses eligible for relief.

“Despite the Department’s outreach to date, few students are aware that debt relief is available. Only a fraction of eligible Corinthian students have applied and *less than three percent* have been approved (with most approved because their school closed, not based on fraud). The [report](#) released today indicates the slow pace of approvals has slowed even further since the last report.

“It’s like draining a swimming pool with a straw -- even a streamlined application is an unnecessary barrier to the relief these students deserve because the Department has already determined that their school committed fraud. Earlier this week, a court [concluded](#) that *every* former Corinthian student in California since 2010 deserved relief. The only way to ensure that they and other defrauded Corinthian students receive relief is to discharge their loans without requiring unnecessary paperwork. We urge the Department to provide automatic discharges to all groups of students covered by findings of fraud, rather than requiring them to submit individual applications.”

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An independent, nonprofit organization, The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) works to make higher education more available and affordable for people of all backgrounds. Our Project on Student Debt works to increase public understanding of rising student debt and the implications for our families, economy, and society. For more information see www.ticas.org or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/TICAS_org](https://twitter.com/TICAS_org).