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**FROM WELD COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KENNETH R. BUCK
FOR THE C.A.S.E. PROGRAM**

F R A U D A L E R T !

BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS FOR ON-LINE STUDENTS OF ANY AGE



Now that the kids are back in school, maybe you have been thinking about taking a few classes yourself in order to apply for a promotion at work or perhaps you want to change careers altogether.

For many, changing careers involves furthering their education. Since it is not practical for most people to return to school as a full-time student, continuing education often occurs through on-line programs that accommodate the working-student's schedule. Before enrolling for continuing education on-line, do your homework and make sure the education you will pay for will pay off for you in the long run.

Check the credibility of the educational institution. There are many legitimate on-line education programs including those offered by accredited colleges and universities, but there are also many scams so buyer beware.

Make sure the program you are considering is accredited. You can check accreditation through the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or through the Department of Education. Both organizations warn of "diploma mills" or agencies that offer degrees, diplomas or certificates for a fee without requiring an individual to complete additional education or course work.

Check with the Better Business Bureau as to the reputation of the agency or school you are considering. Enter the agency or school name in an internet search engine and see if complaints surface. Many times when a company has not performed well, people will post their complaints in blogs or web sites to warn others about their experience and frustration.

If a site or school asks for only a fee to be paid prior to admission, be leery. A reputable school will require additional admission information such as educational history. Also, beware of programs that offer degrees for a fee based on only your life or career experiences.

Contact your local police agency if you think you are a victim of a crime.
To contact the Weld County District Attorney's Office, call (970) 356-4010 ext. 4702.
To view other Fraud Alerts, please go to www.weldda.com and look in the Community Information tab.