



**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20011**

LEW-5/116/0171/03/2003

March 10, 2003

Dear Dr. Bear and Owners of Ten Speed Press:

It has come to my attention that you listed St. Regis University in the "Diploma Mill" section of John Bear's Guide to Earning Degree by Distance Learning. This listing strongly and wrongfully implies that there is something illegitimate about the accreditation awarded by our Education Minister.

However, Dr. Bear, nor anyone else from your office has ever contacted the Embassy of the Republic of Liberia or the Education Minister of the Republic of Liberia to confirm or deny such an allegation.

Because your listing gives the impression that this information is based on facts I must demand that you immediately provide me with the names of individuals or agencies from which you received this inaccurate and offensive information. The spreading of such misinformation is damaging, unfair and slanderous.

St. Regis University may be verified by my office as fully accredited and recognized by the Education Ministry of Liberia, a UNESCO Member Country, as legal, valid and authentic universities, operating under the authority and in conformity with all current laws and regulations ruling educational competency certification of the Republic of Liberia.

St. Regis University is owned and operated by the National Board of Education, Inc., which meets all legal qualifications to establish and operate online and virtual universities to grant college level degrees based on assessment of acquired education, test outs coursework, research and/or other academic teaching and/or measurement methods. Degrees granted by St. Regis Branch colleges and universities approved by the National Board of Education NBOE, and recognized by the Republic of Liberia's Ministry of Education can be earned by residents of all countries, including the Republic of Liberia itself, as well as by all nationals or foreign residents legally residing within the Republic of Liberia.

The Republic of Liberia is a UNESCO member with Partner status, which can be verified from the UNESCO directory:

http://www.dakar.unesco.org/documents/en/unesco_liberia.htm

Our accreditation process requires the meeting of the same high standards for all Liberian universities including but not limited to University of Liberia and St. Regis University.

St. Regis University's homeland is the Republic of Liberia. As a representative of a government education agency, you are, or you should be aware that it is globally accepted practice for each country to respect and accept the recognition that the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Liberia grants to a college or university in its home country.

Because St. Regis has the full recognition of our Education Minister, degrees granted by St. Regis University are deemed to have the same standing as a fully accredited degree granted by a U.S. university.

In addition, many holders of SRU degrees have received official reports of US equivalency from degree evaluation agencies including those that are members of:
AARCO - The American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.
The American Council of Education
NAFSA - Association of International Educators
NAGAP - National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals

I am extremely disappointed to read such misinformation in what many may regard as a reliable reference book as though it were truthful.

Such a listing can only be considered to be offensive and slanderous in addition to the implication that the standards of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Liberia are somehow are less than the US, Canada or other nations.

You are obviously misinformed as to St. Regis University's criteria, standards and pathways of achievement that allows their students to work toward completion of their degrees. Although they do grant credit for learning that takes place outside the classroom through an evaluation of qualifying life experience, this is only one of many factors considered in their academic assessment programs. St. Regis University also utilizes the successful completion of a proprietary series of examinations similar to TESC and Excelsior's programs.

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Liberia believe that education is the best investment that any nation can offer its people and that our universities are a cornerstone of this goal. St. Regis University meets our government's requirements to legally grant degrees based upon prior learning, experiential learning, "testing out" or examination, evaluation of knowledge levels and skills, independent studies, coursework, thesis and alternative education measurements.

Therefore, I strongly appeal to you to immediately remove this offensive listings regarding St. Regis University and the Republic of Liberia.

I hope that this information has been helpful. If you have any further questions please direct them to me.

Respectfully,



Abdulah K. Dunbar
First Secretary & Consul

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