



Department of Justice

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Northern District of Georgia

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FORMER GEORGIA TECH EMPLOYEE INDICTED IN "P-CARD" SCHEME

Atlanta, GA - DONNA RENEE GAMBLE, 43, of Marietta, Georgia, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges arising out of a scheme to defraud the Georgia Institute of Technology ("Georgia Tech") and the National Science Foundation ("NSF"), an agency of the United States Government. GAMBLE is expected to make an initial appearance before a federal magistrate tomorrow.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the case, "This indictment sends a message to all employees with access to government funded credit cards that the unauthorized use of public funds will not be tolerated."

Dr. Christine Boesz, Inspector General of the National Science Foundation, said of the Indictment, "I am pleased by this important step in this investigation, and I thank those who have assisted in protecting the taxpayers' money. I look forward to the resolution of this case and working with the involved parties to ensure the integrity of NSF funding for research."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias, and other information presented in court: GAMBLE was employed by Georgia Tech in Atlanta, where she was assigned to the Parker H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience. As an employee of Georgia Tech, GAMBLE had access to one or more Georgia Tech credit cards, also known as Procurement Cards or "P-Cards," which she was allowed to use for authorized official business purchases only. GAMBLE was prohibited from charging personal purchases on her Georgia Tech P-Cards. From April 2002 through April 2007, GAMBLE allegedly used her Georgia Tech P-Cards to purchase more than 3,800 personal items, at a total cost of more than \$316,000. In an effort to conceal and disguise the personal nature of certain charges on her Georgia Tech P-Cards, GAMBLE allegedly created fake receipts, which she submitted to her supervisor, and made false entries in Georgia Tech's accounting records. Grant money provided to Georgia Tech by the NSF was used to pay for GAMBLE's personal purchases.

The indictment charges 22 counts of mail fraud and theft from an organization

receiving federal funds. The charges each carry a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. In determining the actual sentence, the Court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are not binding but provide appropriate sentencing ranges for most offenders.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the National Science Foundation, Office of Inspector General, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Russell Phillips is prosecuting the case.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only allegations. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.