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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

JAN - 2 2008

General Services Administration
Regulatory Secretariat
1800 F Street N.W., Room 4035
Washington, D.C. 20405
Attn: Ms. Laurieann Duarte

REF: *FAR Case 2007-006, Contractor Compliance Program and Integrity Reporting*

Dear Ms. Duarte:

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General, I am writing today to express our support for *Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) Case 2007-006, Contractor Compliance Program and Integrity Reporting*. The proposals, offered by the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, would amend the FAR to require government contractors to have a code of ethics and business conduct, to adopt internal controls to detect and prevent improper conduct relating to their government contracts, and to notify agency Offices of Inspectors General and contracting officers whenever they become aware of violations of criminal law with regard to those contracts.

We believe that the adoption of these proposals will greatly benefit our efforts to protect the integrity of federal education dollars, as contractors would be required to have mechanisms in place to identify possible fraud and abuse, and would be required to report such instances to our office upon identification. This information will provide our office with the opportunity to take immediate and direct action to prevent any further loss of federal funds.

Thank you for accepting our comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas L. Sipes".

Thomas L. Sipes
Acting Inspector General