
**IN THE MATTER OF
JOHN IACOVELLI, DEAN OF
ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT,
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY**

:
:
:
:
:
:

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Commission Case No. 52-15
DECISION

BACKGROUND

John Iacovelli (“Iacovelli”) seeks Commission approval under section 19 of the Conflicts of Interest Law (“Conflicts Law”) for an exception permitting him to enter into a contract with the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (“HESAA”) to provide Financial Aid Awareness Training.

Section 19(a) of the Conflict Law prohibits a State employee from entering into a contract valued at \$25.00 or more with any State agency except as provided in section 19(b). Pursuant to section 19(b) of the Conflicts Law, the State Ethics Commission is authorized to grant an exception to the prohibition in section 19(a) when the contract meets certain exceptions, including contracts that are awarded pursuant to public notice and competitive bidding.

APPLICATION

According to the information provided, Iacovelli is employed full-time by Stockton University as the Dean of Enrollment Management. He seeks to enter into a contract with HESAA to provide Financial Aid Awareness Training. Iacovelli will be paid \$185.00 per training session by HESAA, not to exceed \$575.00 per day if multiple sessions are provided on the same day. The term of the contract is through the end of 2016.

According to HESAA, the only people qualified to provide the training performed by Financial Aid Awareness trainers are New Jersey Student Financial Aid Administrators. HESAA actively solicits applications from all qualified individuals through various means, including sending notice to the New Jersey Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (“NJASFAA”) via email and at NJASFAA conferences. There are not enough qualified financial aid professionals to deliver all the training that HESAA would like to provide throughout the State, so all qualified applicants are accepted on the same terms and conditions as those offered to Iacovelli.

This Commission has routinely authorized State employees to contract with the State as long as the contract is issued after public notice and competitive bidding, and the contract is not with the State agency that employs them. In this case, the opportunity to contract with HESAA to provide Financial Aid Awareness Training satisfies the public notice requirement because it was publicly advertised to the pool of qualified applicants. Because HESAA does not have enough trainers to meet all of its desired training goals, there was no need to competitively bid the contract

because all qualified applicants for the training work are offered a contract with HESAA to provide the training on the same terms and conditions as Iacovelli. Under these circumstances, there is no risk that HESAA might favor Iacovelli in the award of a contract to him to provide the training services because all interested and qualified individuals receive a contract from HESAA.

DECISION

The Commission grants Iacovelli an exception pursuant to section 19(b) of the Conflicts Law permitting him to enter into a contract with HESAA to provide Financial Aid Awareness Training.

DECISION RENDERED BY THE
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION ON
THE 8TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2015