

We wish to publicly **AFFIRM** to ourselves, our families, the public, and to those who control our debts, that we enrolled in the New England Institute of Art (“NEIA”) in good faith. We did what was expected of us; we jumped through all of the hoops that you required. We took on an extraordinary amount of debt in order to learn. We did this because we believed what you, and those who vouched for you, told us. We enrolled on the belief that we could better our lives and contribute as much as possible to our society. Our goal was not to become rich. We held up our end of the bargain, but you did not.

Now, having taken your profits, you are shutting your doors. The world will recognize your business for the fraud that it was, and we are glad that you will no longer lure other well-intentioned students into your trap. But your closure affirms the worthlessness of our credits and degrees. We do not have the luxury to walk away from our debts.

We, students of NEIA and our families, do not accept that your hands are clean. On account of the numerous illegal, deceptive and unfair acts and practices you, the New England Institute of Art, The Art Institutes, Inc., and Education Management Corporation (“EDMC”), have committed, and to all those who have vouched for and enabled you, we **DEMAND** the following:

REMEDY the harm that you have caused to us, our families, and the public. Cancel all of our debts. Repay the money that we borrowed to attend your school. Remove bad reports from our credit histories. Compensate us for the time and resources that we squandered.

STOP enrolling new students in any of your schools, and shut down entirely. Immediately. Stop denying your wrongdoing. Stop using unfair and oppressive arbitration “agreements” to hide your fraud and prevent us from acting together. Stop retaliating against employees and former employees who speak out to expose your abuse.

ADMIT to us and our families, to the public, and to those who control our debts, that because of your illegal conduct, our debts are invalid and unenforceable. You lied to us and to those who are supposed to regulate and oversee you. You falsely advertised your school. You used manipulative and deceptive tactics to enroll us, even though you knew that our student loan debt would be unmanageable. You knew that employers do not respect the name or training of Art Institute students. You knew that we would not be able to succeed.

EXPLAIN to us and our families, to the public, and those who control our debts, where all of the money that we paid you, through our debts, has gone. Who got rich from our debts? Who owns you now? Who made the decision to close down NEIA and other Art Institutes/EDMC schools, and why?

ACKNOWLEDGE to us and our families, to the public, and to those who control our debts, that you targeted us for enrollment in your programs because you believed you could take advantage of us for your own financial gain. You perceived that your power was greater than ours, knowing as you did that we do not come from rich and powerful families. You used aggressive, manipulative, and deceptive tactics to recruit us and convince us to enroll in your expensive and worthless programs. We worked hard and sacrificed. All the while, corporate profits were more important to you than any of us. You treated us like numbers. You have harmed us all.