



# Public Service Announcement

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, CAMPUS LIAISON PROGRAM

**06 June 2017**

PSA Number

**I-060617-PSA**

Questions regarding this PSA should be directed to your local campus public safety department.

## **U.S. BASED UNIVERSITIES AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS VICTIMIZED BY CREDIT CARD SCHEMES INVOLVING HIGH-END ELECTRONIC PURCHASES**

A recent analysis of reports from victims of fraud targeting U.S. institutes of higher education (IHEs) and their students identified a series of occurrences involving individuals targeting campus bookstores and students with valid campus identification. IHEs have sustained financial loss of several thousand dollars from each occurrence. The FBI is highlighting the following scam to raise awareness, and to provide tips on how the public can protect itself from becoming a victim.

As of early April 2017, several Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs) across the nation have been victims of a credit card scheme involving the purchase of high-end electronics with stolen credit card information. Several IHEs reported a pattern of occurrences involving individuals targeting campus bookstores and students with valid campus identification. The perpetrators of the scheme target unwitting students to facilitate the purchase of high-end electronics, predominantly Apple products, using the students' valid campus identification and a cloned credit card.

### **How the scam works:**

- In order to coerce the unwitting students into facilitating the purchases, the perpetrators provide false cover stories that suggest the perpetrators are current students who have lost their campus identification.
- Students who agree to facilitate the purchases are shown a cloned credit card and identification matching the identifiers on the cloned credit card.
- The perpetrator accompanies the student to the campus bookstore cash register and swipes the cloned credit card, while the legitimate student shows the clerk their valid campus identification.
- In some instances, the perpetrators swiped several declined cards until one was accepted.

The information in this notification was obtained through an FBI investigation and is provided in conjunction with the FBI's statutory requirement to conduct victim notification as outlined in 42 USC § 10607



# Public Service Announcement

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, CAMPUS LIAISON PROGRAM

## Tips on how to protect yourself from this scam:

- Do not agree to facilitate a purchase for an individual who does not provide valid student identification and/or is not previously known to you.
- Establish a procedure at your campus bookstore that includes a provision against allowing the purchaser to utilize a credit card in someone else's name.
- If you have been the victim of this scam notify your campus public safety department.

The IC3 produced a PSA in January 2017 titled "Employment Scam Targeting College Students Remains Prevalent," which outlined another type of scam. This PSA can be viewed at <https://www.ic3.gov/media/2017/170118.aspx>.

The IC3 produced a PSA in May 2014 titled "Cyber-Related Scams Targeting Universities, Employees, and Students," which mentioned similar scams. This PSA can be viewed at <https://www.ic3.gov/media/2014/140505.aspx>.