UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

July 26, 2000

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Dear Colleague:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you and your staff that we will soon begin collecting campus crime statistics as required by Section 485 (a) and (f) of the Higher Education Act (also known as the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act) (20 U.S.C. 1092(a) and (f)). Providing this information is required by law as a condition of your institution's continued participation in the Federal student financial aid programs.

We plan to collect these data using the World Wide Web. We are pleased to be able to provide the data collection instruments in a user-friendly format that will allow your institution to report the data electronically. The electronic format will eliminate the need for mailing and processing paper questionnaires and should significantly reduce your reporting burden and improve the timeliness of the data.

The purpose of these data collections is to give prospective and current students information to help them make decisions about their potential or continued enrollment in a postsecondary institution. Prospective and current students, staff, and the public use the information to assess an institution's security policies and the level and nature of crime on its campus. In addition to requiring institutions to make an annual campus crime data submission to the Department, provisions enacted in the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 require the Department to review the submitted data and submit a report to Congress. The Department is also required to make these campus crime data submissions available to the public. The Department plans to make these reports publicly available through the Department's website.

The Department anticipates that institutions, such as yours, will continue to work with us in a cooperative and timely fashion to carry out this important information collection effort. In that vein, I am writing to ask your assistance to ensure that all campus administrators assigned the responsibility of compiling the data for this survey are aware of the web-based data collections and the importance of reporting within the prescribed timeframes.

The Department plans to assist your institution by providing many opportunities for your institution to receive the technical assistance needed to complete the form on the Internet. The Department has a toll-free phone number and detailed online instructions for institutions to use while they are completing their report. We will provide the toll-free number with the URL for the online instructions when we send you your institution's user ID and password.

Listed below is the planned schedule for the campus crime data collection on the Internet for 2000.

Follow-up Mailing with User IDs and Passwords	August 5, 2000
On-line Registration and Data Collection Begin	August 15, 2000
Data Collection Closes	October 15, 2000
Report to Congress Completed	December 15, 2000

The implementing regulations are in Subpart D--Institutional and Financial Assistance Information for Students--of the Student Assistance General Provisions regulations (34 CFR Part 668). These regulations can be found on the Department of Education's website at the following URL:

http://ifap.ed.gov/csb_html/regcompsnew.htm

If you wish to look just at the changes in the regulations as a result of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, these were contained in a final regulation published on November 1, 1999. These changes can be found on the Department of Education's website at the following URL:

http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg/finrule/q499/110199d.txt

I urge you to share this information with the appropriate officials on your campus and to forward any questions you have to David Bergeron at 202-502-7815 or via e-mail at david_bergeron@ed.gov. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support for this data collection effort.

Sincerely,

A. Lee Fritschler

cc: Campus Security Officer