

A Special Investigations Unit Report on

Texas Tech University's Institute for Child and Family Studies

John Keel, CPA State Auditor

July 9, 2009

Members of the Legislative Audit Committee:

On June 30, 2009, the Lubbock County Criminal District Attorney obtained an indictment from a Lubbock County grand jury on James Dannis Mitchell, the former Director of Texas Tech University's Institute for Child and Family Studies (Institute).

In January 2006, the Special Investigations Unit received allegations from Texas Tech University's Office of Audit Services that Mr. Mitchell was operating a private business selling Institute-developed training materials for his own profit.

The indictment charged Mr. Mitchell with theft of \$500 or more, but less than \$1,500, by a public servant (a state jail felony).

If you have any questions, please contact Krista Steele, Senior Investigator, or me at (512) 936-9500.

Sincerely,

The Special Investigations Unit investigates reports of illegal activity involving state agencies and universities. It refers the results to prosecuting authorities.

Texas Government Code, Section 321.022, requires state agencies and universities to report suspected fraud or unlawful conduct to the State Auditor's Office if there are facts (not merely suspicion) that point to fraud or unlawful conduct.

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John Keel, CPA State Auditor

cc: The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas

Mr. Kent Hance, Chancellor, Texas Tech University System

Mr. Matthew D. Powell, Lubbock County Criminal District Attorney

Ms. Kim Turner, CPA, Chief Audit Executive, Texas Tech University System

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