

NEWS RELEASE



Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
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Luis A. Valentin, Prosecutor

FORMER BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT ADMITS TO THEFT OF WORK-STUDY FUNDS

On February 22, 2010, Larry Lorenzo Molder, 49, of Trenton, N.J., appeared in Monmouth County Superior Court and pled guilty to one count of third degree Theft by Deception. As part of his guilty plea, Molder, a former student at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, N.J., admitted to fraudulently receiving \$1,556.25 worth of funds from a work-study program at the College.

The charge results from an investigation which was conducted by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office in conjunction with the Brookdale Police Department after a random audit revealed that one of Molder's federal work-study time sheets was forged and that Molder received money from the program for hours that he did not work. The investigation revealed that Molder received a total of \$1,556.25 in work-study program funds to which he was not entitled because forged time sheets were submitted.

The work-study program at Brookdale College is designed to provide certain qualified students with funds from the United States Department of Education. Students receiving the funds are required to work part-time with a department or community group in conjunction with the students' educational institution. Molder was assigned to work with the Department of Family and Children's Services in Long Branch, N.J., and the Adult Basic Education program at Brookdale. Molder was arrested on October 2, 2009. Molder has been held at the Monmouth County Correctional Institution since his arrest in lieu of \$25,000 bail which was set by Middletown Township Presiding Municipal Court Judge Richard Thompson.

Molder entered his guilty plea before Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Ira E. Kreizman. Judge Kreizman is scheduled to sentence Molder on April 30, 2010.

Molder entered his guilty plea pursuant to a negotiated plea agreement with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office. The plea agreement was reached after consultation with, and the approval of, Brookdale Community College. In accordance with the terms of the negotiated plea agreement, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office will recommend that Judge Kreizman sentence Molder to a five year State Prison term and that Judge Kreizman order Molder to pay full restitution to Brookdale Community College. Judge Kreizman has agreed to sentence defendant to four (4) years in New Jersey State Prison following the plea. Molder has also completed an application for entry into the Drug Court Program.

Monmouth County Prosecutor Luis A. Valentin stated, "Molder took advantage of a program designed to financially assist students who, in turn, provide needed services to the community. His deceptive conduct involved both a breach of trust with his supervisors at Brookdale College and a theft of valuable funds provided to the program through the Department of Education."

The case is assigned to Assistant Monmouth County Prosecutor Nicole Colucci. Molder is represented by William Wackowski, Esquire, of Freehold, N.J.

Released: February 22, 2010