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Today we are here to announce that we are filing a claim of disability discrimination against Everest College in Reseda, CA (which is a part of Corinthian Colleges Inc.) on behalf of Lydia “Jamie” Aparicio. Jamie who is 20 years old and who lives in North Hollywood, CA, is 3' 7" tall.

Jamie was born with Morquio Syndrome (which is a form of dwarfism). She attended special education public schools in California until high school when she was mainstreamed into the curriculum in which most students are enrolled.

During her elementary, middle, and high school career she never suffered from any discrimination by staff or other students.

In fact, she was well known and loved in all of her educational institutions. In all that she did, she was a good student and a good citizen. In high school she was a varsity cheerleader for 3 years. She also served as a teacher’s assistant in a child development class for pre-school children for 3 years. Some of the children would come to her with their problems and would hug her when she helped them. Other children would say they wanted to be just like her when they grew up and they would fight over who would get to play with her, because they liked her so

much.

After high school and taking a few courses at Los Angeles Mission College, Jamie decided that she would like to become a medical assistant.

She saw an ad on television for Everest College and applied for admission to the Reseda Campus. She was accepted and began class last Fall for the program which was to last 8 months and result in a certificate and assistance in finding a job.

Jamie began classes there and was very excited to have been accepted. Every day during the week she traveled for about an hour by herself taking 2 buses to get to Everest College. She studied hard, took and passed her exams, and turned in all of the required homework.

She did experience some discrimination there, such as not being allowed to take her wheelchair into her classroom and not being given a “scrub” uniform that was sized to her height, but she persisted in the program. On March 2, 2010 one of her teachers told her in class that she needed to go immediately to the office to see a representative of Everest. Jamie went to the office and met the representative who informed Jamie that she would be dropped from the program if she did not fill out some paperwork by the end of the day. She immediately filled it out and turned it in. Jamie asked the reason that she might be dropped. She knew that her grades

could not be the reason , because she had never received any warning about her grades, which would have been required under the schools's written policy.

There was no response to Jamie's question, and no reason was given to her.

On March 3, 2010, she went to the doctor for a previously scheduled appointment. On March 4, 2010, when she returned to school she was told after lunch that she needed to see the representative again. She went to her office and was told again that she was being dropped from the program.

She was then asked if she thought she would be hired by an employer even if she earned her certificate. Jamie said "yes, if I do my job right". She was then told by the school's representative that the representative did not believe that she would ever get hired into the medical field because of her height, and that no one would hire her because of her disabilities.

Jamie then asked if she could get a copy of her grades and she was told that everything was deleted. She was told she was not allowed to return to class and that no records of her would exist at Everest.

Jamie began to cry and left the office. She went into the bathroom crying and told her friend, what happened. She called her step-dad to take her home.

The next Monday while Jamie was still in shock she received a message from the financial aid department inquiring when she would pay back her student

loans.

Recently, Jamie wrote a letter to the school asking the college again to explain why she couldn't attend Everest College to become a medical assistant. She did not receive a written response to her letter, but Tuesday of this week she did receive a telephone message from the school stating that she wouldn't have to pay the rest of the money that she owed to them.

We believe that Jamie has been discriminated against by Everest on account of her disability. Therefore today we have filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, the Office of Civil Rights in Washington D.C. alleging a violation of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) by a college .

No student should have to suffer exclusion from an educational institution because of their disability.

Jamie may be a small person, but she has a big heart, a good mind and a desire to help others. We look forward to fighting for her right to continue to get a good education so that she can continue to help others as she has always done in the past.

Have courage, Jamie, justice is on the way.

Gloria Allred  
Attorney at Law  
representing Jamie Aparicio

April 8, 2010