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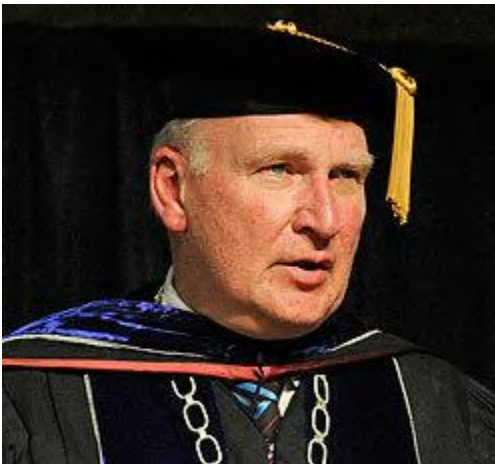
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## College Of DuPage Rejects 'Illegitimate Spending' Claims

By Katie Finlon

Officials at a northern Illinois community college are responding to accusations saying it concealed millions of dollars in spending. WNIJ's Katie Finlon has more.

College of DuPage officials said Wednesday that accusations the college concealed about \$95 million in spending since 2009 are unfounded. That claim was made by a watchdog group and online portal that aggregates about a billion lines of federal, state and local spending.



College of DuPage President Robert Breuder  
Credit COD.edu

COD spokesman Joe Moore said the claims are "emphatically false."

*"The issues are relatively the same that they're [the media] bringing up, and none of those are correct in the way that they're presented to the reader or listener."*

--- Joe Moore, COD Spokesman

[American Transparency](#) investigated the second-largest college in Illinois through OpenTheBooks.com. It revealed what it called "illegitimate spending" at COD in its [508-page report](#), including membership dues to a private shooting club for President Robert Breuder, liquor described on ledger lines as "instructional supplies" and millions of dollars to companies connected to the college foundation and board of directors.

COD Senior Vice President Tom Glaser said the "shooting club" membership belongs to Breuder, but he is reimbursed by the college. It provides a venue for off-campus planning and other sessions.

*"There are not people out shooting guns all the time when Dr. Breuder is out at that place - there's actually business going on on behalf of the college."*

---Tom Glaser, COD Senior Vice President

Lynn Sapyta, COD controller, acknowledged Wednesday that listing the wine and liquor purchases as instructional supplies "may not have been the best choice," but said they are used in the COD culinary management program as well as in the on-campus restaurant where the program's students work.

*"Yes, they were booked as instructional supplies - it was one of the accounts that we didn't really have an account set up for food and beverages. It probably wasn't the best decision that we had to put it in "instructional," but it is an instructional."*

---Lynn Sapyta, COD Controller

President Breuder declined to comment when approached by [The Washington Times](#) last week. Moore said *Times* columnist Drew Johnson sent a "long list of questions" and demanded that Breuder respond within an hour.

Breuder said in a letter to the newspaper that there are no hidden transactions and the accusations by the newspaper and OpenTheBooks.com were false and misleading.

*"The college uses accounting practices in line with national standards typical of large public organizations," he wrote. "Mr. Johnson makes an astonishing claim that we have altered vendor names to facilitate underhanded accounting practices. The document of payments supplied to Open the Books by the College clearly shows there are not varying names used for vendors."*

[The Daily Herald reported last month](#) that the college, located in Glen Ellyn, spent \$26 million for more than a year without the board seeing a receipt. The college hiked tuition each year for the past 14 years - until it voted to lower tuition in August, according to the [Naperville Sun](#) - and raised local property taxes by 59 percent since 2008.

The *Washington Times* said the 82,000 total transactions were "hidden" through [imprest funds](#). Fraser said that simply is a designation by the COD Board of Trustees for handling expenses of \$15,000 or less. Larger expenditures require individual approval by the board.

The founder of American Transparency urges residents to demand a property-tax freeze at COD's [board of trustees meeting](#) Oct. 16.