

WILLIAM J. ROBERTS

Attorney at Law

Goodwin Square

225 Asylum Street

Hartford, CT 06103

T: (860) 275-0184 F: (860) 881-2431

wroberts@daypitney.com

Via E-Mail

September 5, 2024

Maryland Office of the Attorney General

Attn: Security Breach Notification

200 St. Paul Place

Baltimore, MD 21202

Idtheft@oag.state.md.us

RE: Notification of Data Breach

Dear Maryland Office of the Attorney General representative:

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Com. Law § 14-3504(h)(2), on behalf of our client, Vista Higher Learning, Inc. (“VHL”), we are notifying the Maryland Office of the Attorney General of a data breach, affecting approximately thirty-five (35) Maryland residents.

On the morning of July 23, 2024, VHL’s internal I.T. team identified suspicious behavior indicating unauthorized activity was occurring on VHL’s network. VHL immediately contacted Rapid7, VHL’s independent cybersecurity investigation and recovery vendor, to provide assistance. Rapid7 was able to quickly secure VHL’s servers from further unauthorized activity and then began an independent cybersecurity analysis to determine what had occurred.

Rapid7’s investigation determined that the cyberattack began at approximately 5:27 AM Eastern time on July 10, 2024, when the cybercriminal leveraged a vulnerability to gain access to a (soon to be retired) portion of VHL’s network. Rapid7’s investigation further revealed that the cyberattack ended on approximately July 25, 2024, when Rapid7 confirmed VHL had successfully isolated all compromised servers, and there was no evidence of further malicious activity. According to Rapid7’s investigation, the cybercriminal was able to gain access to certain files in selected storage directories maintained on VHL’s network. Fortunately, the cybercriminal did not gain access to VHL’s payroll, employee benefits, HR systems, or any part of VHL Central (VHL’s

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ecommerce and content delivery platform). In further good news, Rapid7 concluded that this was not a targeted attack against VHL.

Once Rapid7 had concluded its investigation and determined the scope of the cybercriminal's potential access to VHL's files, VHL's cybersecurity legal counsel engaged a specialized firm to conduct an in-depth review of the potentially affected files for inclusion of personally identifiable information. Regrettably, on August 14, 2024, VHL learned that a very small number of the files potentially accessed by the cybercriminal (less than .05% of the total) contained personal information, including accounts payable information of vendors, information related to employee reimbursements, and certain information that employees may have saved to their local drives and was then automatically backed up to the server. While the types of information affected will vary by person, the personal information maintained in the affected files generally included the following: names, Social Security Numbers, and bank account information (bank name, bank routing number, bank account number, and bank account type).

VHL is taking a number of steps to reduce the likelihood of future unauthorized access to its systems, including implementing several recommendations received from Rapid7. Some of these measures include retiring old servers and implementing a managed detection and response (MDR) service.

VHL will commence the mailing of notifications to affected individuals by first class U.S. mail on September 6, 2024. A template copy of the notification being sent to affected individuals is attached. VHL is offering all affected individuals complimentary identity theft protection services through IDX, a data breach and recovery services expert. IDX identity protection services include all of the following: twenty-four (24) months of CyberScan® monitoring, a \$1,000,000 insurance reimbursement policy, and fully managed identity theft recovery services. VHL is also notifying relevant state authorities of this cyberattack.

I want to assure you that VHL takes its obligation to protect the privacy and confidentiality of its employees' and vendors' personal information very seriously, and while no business is 100% secure in this day and age, VHL is working with Rapid7 to evaluate ways in which VHL can reduce the likelihood of future unauthorized access to its systems. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at 860-275-0184 or by email at wroberts@daypitney.com.

Sincerely,



William J. Roberts



P.O. Box 989728
West Sacramento, CA 95798-9728

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
<<Address1>> <<Address2>>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>
<<Country>> or <<IMB>>

Enrollment Code: <<XXXXXXXX>>

To Enroll, Scan the QR Code Below:



Or Visit:

<https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect>

September 6, 2024

RE: Notice of Data Breach

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>:

We recently discovered that Vista Higher Learning, Inc. (“VHL,” “we,” “us”) was the victim of a cyberattack that may have involved a small amount of the personal information we hold about you. While we have no evidence that your specific personal information was in fact viewed or acquired by an unauthorized party, we are, nonetheless, writing to explain what happened, how we have responded, and what you can do to protect your personal information.

1. Here is what happened:

On the morning of July 23, 2024, VHL’s internal I.T. team identified suspicious behavior indicating unauthorized activity was occurring on our network. VHL immediately contacted Rapid7, VHL’s independent cybersecurity investigation and recovery vendor, to provide assistance. Rapid7 was able to quickly secure our servers from further unauthorized activity and then began an independent cybersecurity analysis to determine what had occurred.

Rapid7’s investigation determined that the cyberattack began at approximately 5:27 AM Eastern time on July 10, 2024, when the cybercriminal leveraged a vulnerability to gain access to a (soon to be retired) portion of VHL’s network. Rapid7’s investigation further revealed that the cyberattack ended on approximately July 25, 2024, when Rapid7 confirmed VHL had successfully isolated all compromised servers, and there was no evidence of further malicious activity. According to Rapid7’s investigation, the cybercriminal was able to gain access to certain files in selected storage directories maintained on our network. Fortunately, the cybercriminal did not gain access to our payroll, employee benefits, HR systems, or any part of VHL Central (our ecommerce and content delivery platform). In further good news, Rapid7 concluded that this was not a targeted attack against VHL.

2. How we responded:

Once Rapid7 had concluded its investigation and determined the scope of the cybercriminal’s potential access to our files, our cybersecurity legal counsel engaged a specialized firm to conduct an in-depth review of the potentially affected files for inclusion of personally identifiable information. Regrettably, on August 14, 2024, we learned that a very small number of the files potentially accessed by the cybercriminal (less than .05% of the total) contained personal information, including accounts payable information of vendors, information related to employee reimbursements, and certain information that employees may have saved to their local drives and was then automatically backed up to the server.

We are notifying relevant state authorities of this cyberattack. While no business can be 100% secure, we are taking a number of steps to reduce the likelihood of future unauthorized access to our systems, including implementing several

recommendations received from Rapid7. Some of these measures include retiring old servers and implementing a managed detection and response (MDR) service.

3. Types of information involved:

Based upon Rapid7's investigation, the cybercriminal's potential access to identifiable data was limited to certain files containing accounts payable information, employee reimbursement information, and data backups from a small number of employee local drives. While the types of information affected will vary by person, the personal information maintained in the affected files generally included the following: names, Social Security Numbers, and bank account information (bank name, bank routing number, bank account number, and bank account type).

4. Protection of your information:

We are providing written notice to all individuals that we have identified as having information potentially affected by this incident. Included with this notice is a "Reference Guide", which provides useful information regarding how to protect your identity, including obtaining copies of your credit report and implementing credit freezes. We encourage you to review the Reference Guide closely.

In addition, we are offering you twenty-four (24) months of identity theft protection services through IDX, a ZeroFox Company, a data breach and recovery services expert. IDX identity protection services include: 24 months of credit and CyberScan® monitoring, a \$1,000,000 insurance reimbursement policy, and fully managed ID theft recovery services. With this protection, IDX will help you resolve issues if your identity is compromised.

We encourage you to contact IDX with any questions and to enroll in free identity protection services by calling 1-800-939-4170, going to <https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect>, or scanning the QR image and using the Enrollment Code provided above. IDX representatives are available Monday through Friday from 6am - 6pm Pacific Time. Please note the deadline to enroll is December 6, 2024.

5. For more information:

VHL takes its obligation to protect the privacy and confidentiality of our employees' and vendors' personal information very seriously and we deeply regret that this breach occurred. If you have any questions, you may contact IDX or Jason Jordan by phone at (978) 764-3387 or by email at jjordan@vistahigherlearning.com.

Sincerely,

Jon Aram
President & CEO
Vista Higher Learning, Inc.

Reference Guide

Review Your Account Statements. We encourage you to remain vigilant by reviewing your account statements. If you believe there is an unauthorized charge on your card, please contact your financial institution or card issuer immediately. The payment card brands' policies provide that cardholders have zero liability for unauthorized charges that are reported in a timely manner. Please contact your card brand or issuing bank for more information about the policy that applies to you.

Order A Free Credit Report. You are entitled under U.S. law to one free credit report annually from each of the three nationwide consumer reporting agencies. To order your free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com, call toll-free at 1-877-322-8228, or complete the Annual Credit Report Request Form on the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's ("FTC's") website at www.consumer.ftc.gov and mail it to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281. The three nationwide consumer reporting agencies provide free annual credit reports only through the website, toll-free number or request form.

When you receive your credit report, review it carefully. Look for accounts you did not open. Look in the "inquiries" section for names of creditors from whom you have not requested credit. Some companies bill under names other than their store or commercial names. The consumer reporting agency will be able to tell you when that is the case. Look in the "personal information" section for any inaccuracies in your information (such as home address and Social Security number). If you see anything you do not understand, call the consumer reporting agency at the telephone number on the report. Errors in this information may be a warning sign of possible identity theft. You should notify the consumer reporting agencies of any inaccuracies in your report, whether due to error or fraud, as soon as possible so the information can be investigated and, if found to be in error, corrected. If there are accounts or charges you did not authorize, immediately notify the appropriate consumer reporting agency by telephone and in writing. Consumer reporting agency staff will review your report with you. If the information cannot be explained, then you will need to call the creditors involved. Information that cannot be explained also should be reported to your local police or sheriff's office because it may signal criminal activity.

Report Incidents. If you detect any unauthorized transactions in a financial account, promptly notify your payment card company or financial institution. If you detect any incident of identity theft or fraud, promptly report the incident to law enforcement, the FTC and your state Attorney General. If you believe your identity has been stolen, the FTC recommends that you take these steps:

- Close the accounts that you have confirmed or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently. For streamlined checklists and sample letters to help guide you through the recovery process, please visit <https://www.identitytheft.gov/>.
- File a local police report. Obtain a copy of the police report and submit it to your creditors and any others that may require proof of the identity theft crime.

You can contact the FTC to learn more about how to protect yourself from becoming a victim of identity theft and about fraud alerts and security freezes:

Federal Trade Commission
Consumer Response Center
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580
1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338)
www.ftc.gov/idtheft/

Consider Placing a Fraud Alert on Your Credit File. To protect yourself from possible identity theft, consider placing a fraud alert on your credit file. A fraud alert helps protect you against the possibility of an identity thief opening new credit accounts in your name. When a merchant checks the credit history of someone applying for credit, the merchant gets a notice that the applicant may be the victim of identity theft. The alert notifies the merchant to take steps to verify the identity of the applicant. You can place a fraud alert on your credit report by calling any one of the toll-free numbers provided

below. You will reach an automated telephone system that allows you to flag your file with a fraud alert at all three consumer reporting agencies. For more information on fraud alerts, you also may contact the FTC as described above.

Equifax	Equifax Information Services LLC P.O. Box 740241 Atlanta, GA 30374	1-800-525-6285	www.equifax.com
Experian	Experian Inc. P.O. Box 2002 Allen, TX 75013	1-888-397-3742	www.experian.com
TransUnion	TransUnion LLC P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016	1-800-680-7289	www.transunion.com

Consider Placing a Security Freeze on Your Credit File. You may wish to place a “security freeze” (also known as a “credit freeze”) on your credit file. A security freeze is designed to prevent potential creditors from accessing your credit file at the consumer reporting agencies without your consent. *Unlike a fraud alert, you must place a security freeze on your credit file at each consumer reporting agency individually.* There is no fee for requesting, temporarily lifting, or permanently removing a security freeze with any of the consumer reporting agencies. For more information on security freezes, you may contact the three nationwide consumer reporting agencies or the FTC as described above. As the instructions for establishing a security freeze differ from state to state, please contact the three nationwide consumer reporting agencies to find out more information.

Equifax	Equifax Security Freeze P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348	1-800-349-9960	www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/
Experian	Experian Security Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013	1-888-397-3742	www.experian.com/freeze/center.html
TransUnion	TransUnion LLC P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016	1-888-909-8872	www.transunion.com/credit-freeze

The consumer reporting agencies may require proper identification prior to honoring your request. For example, you may be asked to provide:

- Your full name with middle initial and generation (such as Jr., Sr., II, III)
- Your Social Security number
- Your date of birth
- Addresses where you have lived over the past five years
- A legible copy of a government-issued identification card (such as a state driver’s license or military ID card)
- Proof of your current residential address (such as a current utility bill or account statement)
- Social Security Card, pay stub, or W2
- If you are a victim of identity theft, include a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft.

For Iowa Residents. You may contact law enforcement or the Iowa Attorney General’s Office to report suspected incidents of identity theft. You may contact the Iowa Attorney General at:

Office of the Attorney General of Iowa
Hoover State Office Building
1305 E. Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50319
(515) 281-5164
www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov

For Maryland Residents. You can obtain information from the Maryland Office of the Attorney General about steps you can take to avoid identity theft. You may contact the Maryland Attorney General at:

Maryland Office of the Attorney General
Consumer Protection Division
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
(888) 743-0023 (toll-free in Maryland)
(410) 576-6300
www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov

For Massachusetts Residents. You have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. If you are the victim of identity theft, you also have the right to file a police report and obtain a copy of it. You may also place a security freeze on your credit reports, free of charge. The consumer reporting agencies may require that you provide certain personal information (such as your name, Social Security number, date of birth, and address) and proper identification (such as a copy of a government-issued ID card and a bill or statement) prior to honoring your request to place a security freeze on your account.

For New Mexico Residents. You have rights under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act ("FCRA"). These include, among others, the right to know what is in your file; to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information; and to have consumer reporting agencies correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information. For more information about the FCRA, please visit www.ftc.gov.

For New York Residents. You can obtain information from the New York State Office of the Attorney General about how to protect yourself from identity theft and tips on how to protect your privacy online. You can contact the New York State Office of the Attorney General at:

Office of the Attorney General
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224-0341
1-800-771-7755 (toll-free)
1-800-788-9898 (TDD/TTY toll-free line)
<https://ag.ny.gov>

Bureau of Internet and Technology (BIT)
28 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10005
Phone: (212) 416-8433
<https://ag.ny.gov/resources/individuals/consumer-issues/technology>

For North Carolina Residents.

You can also obtain information about preventing and avoiding identity theft from the North Carolina Attorney General's Office:

North Carolina Attorney General's Office
Consumer Protection Division
9001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-9001
877-566-7226 (Toll-free within North Carolina)
919-716-6000
www.ncdoj.gov

For Oregon Residents. We encourage you to report suspected identity theft to law enforcement and the Oregon Attorney General at:

Oregon Department of Justice
1162 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-4096
(877) 877-9392 (toll-free in Oregon)
(503) 378-4400
www.doj.state.or.us

For Rhode Island Residents. You may obtain information about preventing and avoiding identity theft from the Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General at:

Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General
Consumer Protection Unit
150 South Main Street
Providence, RI 02903
(401)-274-4400
www.riag.ri.gov

You have the right to obtain a police report and request a security freeze as described above. The consumer reporting agencies may require that you provide certain personal information (such as your name, Social Security number, date of birth, and address) and proper identification (such as a copy of a government-issued ID card and a bill or statement) prior to honoring your request for a security freeze on your account.

For Washington, D.C. Residents. You may obtain information about preventing and avoiding identity theft from the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia at:

Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia
400 6th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202)-727-3400
www.oag.dc.gov