

# PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## WLAC HELPS TO UNCOVER SERIAL IDENTITY THIEF

Suspect Reon Jordan was arrested Tuesday, March 4, by the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) in connection to identity theft charges. Jordan is alleged to have purchased gift receipts, similar in concept to gift cards, to pay for career-related courses at West Los Angeles College. Astute college staff found Jordan's payment patterns suspicious and called the matter to the attention of the on-campus Los Angeles Sheriff's Office.

This initiated a nine-month investigation which found dozens of victims whose profiles were being used to make a range of purchases. According to a statement issued by the Sheriff's Office, Jordan was arrested yesterday on a \$1.2 million bail warrant. She is charged with over 26 felonies.

Jordan got her victims' information while working for a medical billing company with offices in Pasadena where she worked since 2008. The Sheriff's Office said they found hundreds of identity profiles in Jordan's home and they suspect there are more victims than have already been identified. The amount of theft is suspected to be in the tens of thousands of dollars and impacts many entities outside of the college.

At a press conference held on campus today, College President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh offered his thanks to West staff for flagging the suspicious transactions and to LASD for their work leading to the arrest. "It is very important to note that our students, and we serve over 10,000, are here focused on legitimate goals in education. They're here to study for university transfer, career and technical education, and for life-long learning. Most sacrifice heavily in order to pursue their academic goals. We pride ourselves on providing a safe environment, with the help of the Sheriff's Department, so our students can focus on pursuing their goals and dreams." Abu-Ghazaleh also praised the Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor and Trustees for creating a culture of safety at the colleges where employees and students value honesty and are diligent about and comfortable with reporting actual and potential problems.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information was asked to contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Community College Bureau at (323) 669-7555.

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