



November 4, 2020

VIA E-MAIL (NDAG@ND.GOV)

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem
Office of the Attorney General
600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Department 125
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Notice of Security Incident Regarding Albany State University

Dear Attorney General Stenehjem:

I am writing on behalf of Albany State University (“ASU”) to notify you of a security incident involving North Dakota residents that was experienced by one of its vendors, Blackbaud, Inc. (“Blackbaud”). Blackbaud is a cloud-based software company that provides services to thousands of schools, hospitals, and other non-profits. ASU uses Blackbaud’s data solution services to manage its donor and fundraising information.

On July 16, 2020, Blackbaud informed ASU it discovered that an unauthorized individual had gained access to Blackbaud’s systems between February 7 and May 20, 2020. Blackbaud further advised that the unauthorized individual may have accessed or acquired a backup of the database that manages donor information. Blackbaud paid a ransom and obtained confirmation that the files that had been removed had been destroyed. Blackbaud reported that it has been working with law enforcement.

ASU immediately took steps to understand the extent of the incident and the data involved. ASU recently determined that the database that was accessed or acquired by the unauthorized individual may have included the names and dates of birth of three (3) North Dakota residents. Blackbaud informed ASU that the fields within the database dedicated to Social Security numbers, financial information, and payment card information were encrypted and therefore not accessed or acquired.

ASU sent the attached written notice to the North Dakota residents whose information was present in the Blackbaud database. The notification letter was sent to the potentially affected individuals contemporaneously with this correspondence via electronic mail. ASU has provided a phone number where all individuals may obtain more information regarding the incident.

ASU remains in regular contact with Blackbaud regarding the details of this incident, and we are continuing to monitor their response. At this time, we do not feel there is a need for you to take any action. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact me at 229-500-3502 or joel.wright@asurams.edu.

Sincerely,

Joel P. Wright
Chief Legal Affairs Officer



DIVISION OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT
VICE PRESIDENT

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

[REDACTED]
Minot, North Dakota 58701-[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

I am contacting you today to make you aware of an incident that occurred outside of the responsibility of Albany State University (ASU) or the Albany State University Foundation. We have been notified by our vendor, Blackbaud, that their systems were breached between February and May 2020. You may have already received communications from other institutions and/or non-profit organizations whose data was also exposed as a result of the Blackbaud network breach. Blackbaud is a cloud-based software company that provides services to thousands of schools, hospitals, and other non-profits. ASU uses Blackbaud's data solution services to manage its donor and fundraising information.

Blackbaud further advised that the unauthorized individual may have accessed or acquired a backup of the database that manages donor information. Blackbaud paid a ransom and obtained confirmation that the files removed from its systems had been destroyed. Blackbaud reported that it has been working with law enforcement.

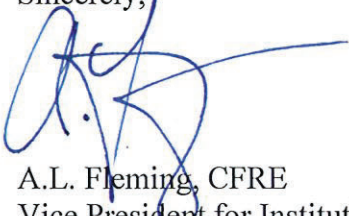
This letter is to serve as a notification of that breach. Albany State University (ASU) is serious about data security and we have engaged in detailed conversations with Blackbaud regarding this matter and their addressing of it. Blackbaud informs us that, credit card information, bank account information and social security numbers were not compromised during this breach. They did inform us however that certain information that may have been exposed includes the following; name, address, date of birth, contact information, schools attended, field of study, graduation date, names of employers for some donors and giving history. Blackbaud has shared with us that their investigation and those of law enforcement concluded the accessed data has not been further exposed.

Since the incident, Blackbaud has implemented several changes to protect your data and reduce the risk of future attacks. We have completed our review of this incident; however, we continue to review our relationship with Blackbaud to ensure that your personal information remains secure.

We apologize for this inconvenience and will continue to monitor and review this pressing matter with Blackbaud and all appropriate authorities. Thank you for your continued

investment in Albany State University. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 229.500.3289 or al.fleming@asurams.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A.L. Fleming', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

A.L. Fleming, CFRE
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Executive Director, ASU Foundation