

For Immediate Press Release
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***Dawn Buckingham Asked To Apologize to Veterans and Voters
For Withholding Information About Her Financial Ties
To For-Profit Business That Preys Upon Veterans' GI Bill Funding***

Susan King demands that Dawn Buckingham publicly apologize for misleading voters and veterans on Buckingham's Board position and financial connections to for-profit business National American University that has been condemned for preying upon veterans' GI Bill funding

Wednesday, April 27, 2016, Abilene, Texas—

"It is shocking and very sad that my runoff opponent Dawn Buckingham and her family have benefitted tremendously from running a South Dakota based for-profit entity, National American University (NAU), that uses predatory marketing and phony websites like "GIBill.com" to exploit veterans and their GI Bill funding," said Susan King, Republican candidate for State Senate District 24 and Chairman of the Texas House Committee on Defense and Veterans' Affairs.

This past week, a statewide veterans organization and the Austin-based *Quorum Report* exposed runoff candidate Dawn Buckingham's resume omission that she recently served on the Board of Governors of this controversial for-profit university that preys upon and dupes veterans and their GI Bill funding. Offering most of their courses online, NAU college degrees cost 2 to 20 times more than degrees from community colleges and state universities and often leave veterans with insurmountable college loan debt after GI funding is depleted, and with worthless degrees that don't help them get civilian jobs.

Though Buckingham has listed significant annual compensation and large stockholdings with the for-profit National American University, Buckingham's campaign omitted from her campaign material that she also served on NAU's Board of Governors from 2013 through March of 2015, just 2 months before she launched her campaign for State Senate.

"Clearly this omission and resume fraud by Buckingham's campaign was purposely done to hide her connection to NAU and the rampant criticism it has received from veterans organizations and veteran students, as well as the formal investigations launched by the United States Senate and by Attorneys General in other states," said King. "With this resume omission now exposed and the related discovery that over 72% of Buckingham's campaign loans and contributions are from shareholders and board members of NAU, Buckingham owes an apology to the veterans and voters of this State Senate District."

King added that Buckingham needs to immediately address the following issues:

1. Buckingham needs to explain why she purposely omitted from all of her campaign material any mention of her recent position on the Board of Governors (2013-2015) of

the controversial for-profit South Dakota based National American University;

2. Buckingham needs to explain her role as member of the Board of Governors in how NAU addressed its predatory marketing practices and exploitation of veterans after the United States Veterans Administration department forced NAU and other for-profit schools to stop using the fraudulent website GIBill.com;

3. Buckingham needs to explain why NAU spends only one-third of its revenue on student instruction and over two-thirds on marketing and shareholder profit;

4. Buckingham needs to explain why degrees from NAU cost 2 to 20 times more than comparable degrees from community colleges and state universities and explain why this information is withheld from its students;

5. Noting that National American University has only 8,000 students, Buckingham needs to explain why it paid her father-in-law (who is also her largest campaign contributor) over \$3.1 million in 2010 as NAU's Chairman of the Board, considering that this is more salary than the combined salaries of the Chancellors of Texas A&M, Texas Tech and UT systems, which have over 200,000 students."

6. Since Buckingham and her husband receive substantial annual compensation from, and have substantial stockholdings in, National American University, she needs to make public her W-2, 1099 and 4797 (schedules C and D) IRS forms for the past ten years to show how much money and stock she and her husband have received from National American University."

7. Buckingham needs to disclose whether she has ever defended the for-profit university industry and/or lobbied any member of state government on its behalf.

"It is truly sad that my runoff opponent has deceived veterans and voters alike on her background," King concluded. "Such purposeful dishonesty does not deserve a seat in the Texas Senate."

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