Notice of Purchase Order Fraud

Scammers are impersonating Western University of Health Sciences and contacting vendors. These scams involve fraudulent or fake purchase orders or fake requests for quotations that claim to originate from the University. The fraud works by convincing the vendor to ship the product to the fraudulent company and bill the University. Unfortunately, by the time the fraud is discovered, it is too late, and the vendor must absorb the loss.

From time to time, vendors contacted by scammers will report that someone has been impersonating Western University of Health Sciences. Signs of a fraudulent order may include:

- The email sender does not use an official @westernu.edu email address or uses a spoofed email address.
- Email correspondence contains poor grammar, spelling, and sentence structure.
- The caller or sender claims to be an employee no longer associated with the University.
- Descriptions are vague and may demand items that are not typically sold by the supplier.
- Phone numbers provided in the email are not associated with the University.
- The order is for a large quantity of items that are easy to resell
- The shipping address on the purchase order is not a Western University of Health Sciences address or property associated with WesternU. Often, the shipping address is a residential, private mailbox, or warehouse address.

As WesternU IT can only monitor email addresses and users within our domain, we cannot detect or prevent this activity. Vendors that are suspicious of the validity of an order can forward the request to the Purchasing Department at point@westernu.edu for verification.

Examples of domains used in fraudulent emails reported to WesternU by vendors. WesternU never uses a .com, .net, .org, or .us email address:

- westernuni.org
- westernuni-edu.us
- westerun-edu.us
- westernu-edu.org
- procurement-westemu-edu.org
- westenun.org

Please note that this list is not exhaustive as scammers frequently change domains/email addresses.

Scammers are also using the following phone numbers. These are not University phone numbers:

- 917-268-4514
- 909-624-6117

- 650-963-4155
- 909-632-7144
- 909-629-7466
- 916-248-5184
- 916-248-1291
- 909-817-3008
- 909-254-4499
- 909-254-1291

Please note that this list is not exhaustive as scammers frequently change phone numbers

If your company receives a fraudulent order, please inform your IT department and report the message as spam/phishing in your email program.

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