



April 19, 2008

Student data compromised

Stephanie Veale
Staff writer

Personal data about students from at least three area colleges was compromised after a laptop computer was stolen, officials said Friday.

The theft affected thousands of students at State University College at Buffalo, State University College at Brockport and Monroe Community College.

The laptop belonged to an employee at SunGard Higher Education, a software company that provides information technology services to SUNY schools and other colleges and universities, according to a statement released by Brockport. The computer was stolen in March and colleges were notified in the past few days.

The theft of the laptop comes about a week after a portable storage device containing sensitive information about 600 Penfield Central School District retirees and retirees' spouses was reported missing from Monroe 1 BOCES. Many similar incidents have been reported nationwide in recent years.

About 1,500 people who included Brockport in their financial aid application process were affected. The school is still determining the number of enrolled Brockport students whose information was compromised. A letter will be mailed to these students, according to the statement.

Twenty MCC students had information on the stolen laptop, spokeswoman Cynthia Cooper said. Those students have been notified. The letter sent to them explains how to put a fraud alert on their credit files and outlines resources available to them through the Federal Trade Commission, Cooper said.

No students at the State University College at Geneseo were affected, spokesman Tony Hoppa said Friday, but the laptop did contain Social Security numbers for about 16,000 SUNY Buffalo students.

SUNY Buffalo officials say a computer owned by a consultant for SunGard, which provides its records system, was stolen March 13. That school was notified of the theft April 11.

A spokesman for SUNY Buffalo said there had been no confirmed reports of fraud as of Friday.

Brockport received copies of the compromised files on Thursday and officials were analyzing the content. The files included names, Social Security numbers and possibly other types of identifying information for a smaller subset of students,

Brockport officials said.

STVEALE@DemocratandChronicle.com

Includes reporting by The Associated Press.
