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Marc's Profile · Catawba Valley Community College's Profile

**Marc Bechtol** Catawba Valley Community College

Just got another email about the higher one card. They say my grant money will be delayed 21 days because I elected the paper check over dealing with an unethical bank. Any CVCC administrators care to take responsibility for this disservice to the student body. Whoever signed off on this should resign or defend his decision. He does not have our best interest in mind.

Like · Comment · September 16 at 12:00pm via mobile ·

Kelly Travis Hall likes this.



**Willow Mayflower** How is it CVCC's fault that you was told that? You should have chose something else and when you choice to get a paper check the Higher one people told you that it would be later than having it wired to a different bank account or using their services.

September 17 at 10:48am · 3 people



**Kelly Travis Hall** He is probably like many others... We need the WHOLE amount of OUR money! I am not satisfied with all of the charges Higher One is going to be charging us- 50 cent per swiped transaction, 2.50 just to make a withdrawal (unless you go to CVCCs ATM, which is GOING to run out of money) with a max amount of \$500 per day, and many other fees!!! Do your research ppl!!! We are the one's that are getting SCREWED!!!

September 19 at 8:27am



**Willow Mayflower** IF you don't like those terms of the Higher One, then have it directly despoited into another account. That is what i am doing and I'm not getting SCREWED OVER! If you want the WHOLE amount of the MONEY the GOVERMENT gives you then have it directly despoited to another bank account, CVCC can't do anything about what the Higher One charges students.

September 19 at 8:56am



**Marc Bechtol** Ms. Mayflower, it isn't that I was told that, it's that I have to wait because CVCC selected a bank for us to use. I don't like that my money is being sent to a bank that I didn't choose. It isn't HigherOne's money. It isn't CVCC's either and they are spending it as though it is.

September 19 at 3:21pm



**Willow Mayflower** But you was the one who choose to get a paper check thou. You could have it direct deposit it like did without a fee. And it's not really YOUR money, its the governments' money. We have to earn the refund that we get.

September 19 at 7:04pm · 3 people



**Matt Lewis** @ Willow - Having your funds DD to your own account is the smartest option as I chose the same. However, you must think outside the box. This is a matter of principle and ethical banking. You are assuming that everyone has a bank account and can easily opt to have it go though ACH. This is not the case. There are reasons why many people do not have checking/ savings

accounts (most likely debts). Although they should resolve their issues, it shouldn't be the school or HigherOne that forces them to do so. For others, they don't trust electronic processing due to little or no knowledge of how it works. Although it is a safe transaction, its fair of them to not trust it.

Last year, Higher One took in over \$66 million in merchant swipe fee, inactivity account fees, and convenience fees alone from this program. They are receiving funds for over 1.2 million students nationwide. That totals to BILLIONS. You claim people choose their option but some are limited and left with only the choice of opening up an account with them and sacrificing a little bit of their money or wait for a paper check while the bank sits on it for a week or so and accrue interest off of it. How much do you think they can make on millions, if not billions, sitting in an account for a week? Those who open up an account with them can swipe credit and have no charge. Higher One makes on average, 1.7% (per \$100) from these transactions (merchant fees). They will not make as much with debit transactions so to make up for the loss, they carry the charge of 50 cents onto the student to cover it.

On a side note, colleges who participate in this program can receive incentives from Higher One based on the number of accounts students open up with them which is most likely why all the banners around school advertise the "free checking account" and not the fees that can be incurred. I will give credit that the fee schedule is available on Higher One's website. However, if the school is forcing students to this program, then they should be able to explain it as well and not direct students to Higher One.

A 2008 study by the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that more than two-thirds of college-bound seniors fail the nonprofit's 31-question literacy test. If you haven't noticed some of the posts on here, it's evident that some students will not understand this program and this is where it can be viewed as unethical practice. You're fortunate enough to grasp how this program works and don't mind because waiting for your funds to clear ACH within three days isn't a problem. The economic crisis that we have been in for four or five years now has put many people in a position where they need their money ASAP due to outstanding debts such as food, clothing, and shelter. And who caused the mortgage crisis.....????

Hopefully, you can see this from another's shoes. The world is a little larger than you think...

September 20 at 6:59am · [4 people](#)



**Joanna Smith** was originally told when I got the info about the card that if I elected to use the card that I would get my money early. NOT TRUE! I'm getting it at normal time which is LATER than the last two years I've gotten a refund...just wish they'd tell the truth!

September 20 at 8:34am · [1 person](#)



**Kimberly Caballero** And you can avoid the fees by using your card as Credit instead of Debit, and don't take it from the ATM. Simple as that.

September 20 at 1:37pm



**Kevin Bowman** Good job Matt, never fail to impress with your explanations. On another note the very first email about the Higher One card stated that if you did not activate your card that you would receive your check the old fashioned way. What many stu...

[See More](#)

September 21 at 1:35pm · [1 person](#)



**Willow Mayflower** @Kevin: You don't have to give a dime to the

school that's on you. Yes the first e-mail did state that it will paper check. the 21days is for if you did not activate your card before the 27th. They send these emails for a reason....that reason is for us the students to activate our card, if the student do not activate before the 27th then that is on the student. They have told you to activate your card and you didn't listen then that is on you when you get your refund check, not the SCHOOL'S or HIGHER ONE but the STUDENT.

September 21 at 4:44pm · 1 person



**Kevin Bowman** Do you even see what you are typing? proof read young lady: "They send these emails for a reason....that reason is for us the students to activate our card, if the student do not activate before the 27th then that is on the student." The point that we are making which some people seem to miss is that they forced activation on the students to an unethical bank. Do yourself a favor and read Matt's post. That is the point we are making..... Not meant to be personal but the student rage is intended for the school. I admit me having to open a checking account with them was my fault due to time constraints on my own part. However other students didn't have this option. I am sure CVCC didn't know that Higher one would have caused all this fuss, but they should have let the student body have a say in it. They try so hard to be like a university however I remember in my tenure at UNCG they never forced a card on us. If we chose not to get their bank card they simply mailed the checks. Well after typing and reading all of this I am officially over this BS and will be transferring to another college come January. 8]

September 22 at 6:30am · 1 person



**Jon Davis** I must agree, delaying funds because we don't activate a card that THE SCHOOL chose for us is unethical. And by the way, Ms. Mayflower, this is not government money we're talking about. It's money that US, the taxpayers pay to the government. It's OUR money, not the governments. How do people miss this? How have we become so indoctrinated by big government beauracracy, that Americans think that government money is owned by the government? Twisted! Seein's how this IS our money, we should have a say in how it's handled. And, I expect the majority of students would have rather had much less complication, confusion, and a say in how funds are distributed. Even if students elected the direct deposit to an existing account, that's really irrelevant in respect to this argument. If this mess had been struck down by a voting body of students, then there would have been no need to elect anything, we'd just get OUR money like normal.

September 24 at 10:28pm · 1 person



**Willow Mayflower** Like i said before JON DAVIS: IT IS NOT OUR MONEY UNTIL WE EARN IT BY GOING TO SCHOOL EVERYDAY AND GETTING THE GRADES THAT WE NEED SO UNTIL THEN ITS THE GOVERMENT MONEY!!!! AND STOP SAYING "OUR MONEY" ITS NOT OURS UNTIL WE EARN IT! WHAT PART OF THAT DON'T YA'LL GET? YEAH THE GOVERNMENT MAY GET IT FROM TAXES, BUT IT IS STILL OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENT UNTIL WE EARN IT OURSELF BEFORE WE CAN SAY THAT WE OWN THAT MONEY!

September 28 at 8:28am · 1 person