

Due Diligence Packet

ORIGIN OF THIS REPORT:

This Clear Report originated when the Recla Group, Inc, was hired by a conference to vet their keynote speakers. In the vetting, the Recla group rejected Dr. Bob Wright, Wright Foundation CEO, after independent reporting and investigation uncovered uncertain data and information online. The Recla Group provided direct feedback to Dr. Wright and the Wright Foundation. After working toward understanding and resolving the data that emerged, the Wright Foundation reached out to the Recla Group to conduct a further anonymous assessment related to any concerns that emerged in general including cult allegations. This report is the output of that independent investigation.

Prepared for *The Wright Foundation*
by *The Recla Group, LLC*
October 22, 2018

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COMPANY BACKGROUND



WRIGHT FOUNDATION

FOR THE REALIZATION OF HUMAN POTENTIAL

The Wright Foundation for the Realization of Human Potential is a 501(c)3 nonprofit registered corporation in the state of Illinois. The foundation focuses on educating current and future transformational leaders, through curriculum in social and emotional intelligence, classes, and coaching, to activate leaders who help contribute to a vision of a world that works for everyone, one person at a time.



WRIGHT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY *For the Realization of Human Potential*

The Wright Graduate University (WGU) for the Realization of Human Potential, Inc., is an accredited university and a division of the Wright Foundation for the Realization of Human Potential, a 501(c)3 nonprofit registered corporation in the state of Illinois. WGU operates and grants degrees and certificates in the state of Wisconsin under the authority of the Education Approval Program of the state of Wisconsin and operates in Illinois as the Wright Graduate School for the Realization of Human Potential.

Wright Graduate University was founded in 2006 by Dr. Bob Wright, Dr. Judith Wright, and Dr. Michael Zwell in order to develop transformational leaders and give them the tools to maximize their influence in the world around them.

BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Bob Wright – Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder

Dr. Judith Wright – President, Chief Academic Officer, & Co-Founder

Tom Terry – Chairman of the Board

Dr. Stan Smith – Treasurer

John Davidoff – Secretary

Rich Lyons – Board Member

Karen Wilson Smithbauer – Board Member

Dr. Don Delves – Board Member

Scott Stephen – Board Member

Dave Stamm – Board Member

CONTACT INFORMATION

Robert & Judith Wright

drbob@wrightgrad.edu

445 E. Ohio, Suite 400

Chicago, IL 60611

Wright Foundation: 312.645.8300

WGU: 262.742.444

BOARD MEMBER CURRENT AND PAST EXPERIENCE

Dr. Bob Wright

- Co-Founder, Professor of Transformational Leadership, Wright Graduate University
- Co-Founder of The Wright Foundation for the Realization of Human Potential
- CEO and Co-Founder of The Wright Business Institute
- Co-Founder of The Prairie Spring Woods Conference & Training Center
- President, Program Developer, Key Executive Coach at Living Visions, Inc.
- President, Vice President, and Co-Founder of Human Effectiveness, Inc.
- Field Faculty and/or Adjunct Faculty at University of Chicago, Loyola University, University of Illinois at Chicago, Governors State University, and Northeastern Illinois University
- Faculty and Trainer, Post-Graduate Center of Forest Hospital

Dr. Judith Wright

- Co-Founder & President, The Wright Foundation for the Realization of Human Potential
- Co-Founder, Chief Academic Officer, Professor of Transformational Education at Wright Graduate University
- President of the Wright Leadership Institute
- President and Founder of The Center for Exceptional Living, Inc.
- Co-Founder of The Prairie Spring Woods Conference & Training Center
- Former Director of Clinical Programs, Illinois Institute for Developmental Disabilities, University of Illinois, Chicago and the Illinois Department of Mental Health
- Former Principal Investigator and Project Director, contracted through

the U.S. Department of Education

- Former Member, Advisory Council for Collegiate Services to the Handicapped, Michigan Department of Education

Tom Terry

- CEO and Founder of The Terry Group
- CEO of J.P. Morgan Compensation and Benefits Strategies
- Co-founder and president of CCA Strategies LLC
- Principal and VP of The Towers Perrin
- President and Chair of International Actuarial Association
- Board Chair of Global Aging Institute
- President, chair, and board of directors for American Academy of Actuaries
- Chairman of the Board for American Academy of Actuaries
- Vice President and Board Member of Society of Actuaries
- President of Conference of Consulting Actuaries

Dr. Stan Smith

- President, Smith Economics Group
- Adjunct Professor, College of Law, DePaul University
- Principal and Managing Director of Ibbotson Associates, Inc.
- Founder and President of Seaquest International, Inc.
- Associate Economic Analyst for The December Group, Ltd.
- Staff Economist at JPMorgan Chase Bank
- Staff Economist at Board of Governors at Federal Reserve System
- Lecturer in Public Policy Economics at University of Chicago
- Vice President of Midlothian Manufacturing Co.
- Member of Chicago Board Options Exchange

John Davidoff

- CEO of Davidoff Mission-Driven Business Strategy
- President and CEO of Entertainment Marketing, Inc.
- Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Omnicom's Radiate Events Group, Inc.
- Senior Vice President of Marketing and Vice President of Consumer Event Marketing at General Growth Properties, Inc.
- Vice President, Director of Event Marketing, and Account Supervisor at DDB, Inc.

Rich Lyons

- CEO & President of Lyons Consulting Group, a division of Caggemini
- Principal/Account Executive at March FIRST /Whittman- Hart, Inc.
- VP of Sales at Divine, Inc.
- Director of Sales and Marketing at TII Technical Education systems
- Senior Consultant and Staff Engineer at Peterson & Company Consulting

Scott Stephen

- Chief Growth Officer, Guaranteed Rate
- President, Guaranteed Rate Online
- COO of Playboy Enterprises
- COO of Yesmail, Inc.

Dave Stamm

- CEO Stamm Technologies and Stamm Media, top Milwaukee IT and AV consultancy, for 17 years

Karen Wilson Smithbauer

- President, Karen Colina Wilson Foundation
- First Step – Board of Directors
- Oakwood Hospital Foundation - Board of Directors
- Oakwood Hospital Women’s Health Advisory Committee Chairman
- President, C.E.O, Chairman of the Board at Central Distributors of Beer, Inc.
- Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers Association – Chairwoman, Vice President, Treasurer, Executive Committee, and Board of Directors
- *Cleveland Clinic Brain Tumor Institute National Leadership Board
- Former Board of Directors at Southern Wayne County Chamber of Commerce
- Board of Governors, Past President at Schoolcraft College Foundation
- Past Board of Directors at Monroe Bank & Trust
- Board of Directors, Public Affairs Committee at Everybody Ready
- Capital Campaign Co-Chair and Major Donor at New Morning School
- Former President at Jaycee Auxiliary
- The Information Center – Advisory Board
- Downriver Council for the Arts – Board of Directors
Preschool teacher at Utica Community Schools

Dr. Don Delves

- Director of Executive Compensation at Willis Towers Watson
- Faculty at World at Work
- Writer and speaker on management, executive pay, and governance at the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, the National Association of Corporate Directors, The National Association of Stock Plan Professionals, and the Brookings Institute.
- Teacher of principles-based leadership at The Wright Foundation
- Board member of The Metropolitan Club of Chicago
- Board member of the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
- Board member of The Advisory Council of the 100 Year Starship
- Former president of the Chicago Compensation Association
- Certified Public Accountant
- Founder of the Delves Group
- Former Managing director of the Chicago office of iQuantic

MEDIA MENTIONS

Forbes

[The Most Expensive Addictions](#)

San Francisco Chronicle

[The Softer Side of Addiction](#)

Baltimore Sun Magazine

[‘Soft Addictions’ Easy to Fall Into](#)

New York Daily News

[How to Get a Life if You’re Addicted to Gossip](#)

ABC News: Good Morning America

[Are you a Slave to Soft Addictions | Bad Habits](#)

ABC News: 20/20

[Soft Addictions](#)

WGN TV- Chicago

[The Seven Rules for Fighting Fair TV Segment](#)

Good Housekeeping

[15 Dumb Things You’re Doing that Hurt Your Marriage](#)

Seventeen Magazine

[10 Reasons Why You Keep Getting Back Together With Your Ex](#)

Google Talk in Mountainview, California

[The Heart of the Fight](#)

Redbook

[12 Fights You’re Not Having But Should](#)



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MEDIA MENTIONS

(cont'd)

Huffington Post

[3 Fights that Can Make or Break
Your Relationship](#)

Reader's Digest

[7 Things Happy Couples Do When
They Fight](#)

TRANSPARENCY REPORT

Self-Disclosed Information

Accreditation Issues

On August 31, 2016, the Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential received re-accreditation from the Accreditation Counsel for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). Accreditation was granted for four years through 2020.

On December 12, 2016, ACICS lost their ability to accredit schools placing all ACICS accredited schools to include the Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential on an 18-month provisional accreditation to gain accreditation by another federally recognized accreditor.

On December 23, 2016, the Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential received official approval from the US Department of Education to deliver education and were approved to continue to use IV funds through the 18-month provisional accreditation period.

The vetting reviewed and verified the accreditation letter dated August 31, 2016 approving accreditation for the school from the ACICS approving accreditation through December 31, 2020. The vetting also confirmed that as of December 12, 2016 the United States Department of Education no longer recognized ACICS ability to accredit institutions. The vetting also verified the 18-month extension that was granted to ACICS accredited institutions affected by the Department of Education's decision.

In August 2016, the Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential started the process to obtain new accreditation from another federally recognized accreditor.

On July 14, 2017, The Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential received accreditation from DEAC, Distance Education Accreditation Commission.

The vetting reviewed and verified the approval letter from the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) granting accreditation for the Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential through June 2020. The vetting reviewed and verified the approval letter from the US Department of Education approving the Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential as a Federal Student Aid Program Participant. The approval letter has an expiration date of June 30, 2023. The approval letter confirmed the school's participation in the Federal Direct Student Loan Program, Federal Perkins Loan Program, and the Federal Work-Study Program.

Non-Profit Information

The vetting also verified the Foundation for the Realization of Human Potential, an active not-for-profit Illinois corporation formed on 7/25/2007. The vetting revealed that the Illinois entity operates under several d/b/a to include: Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential, The Wright Foundation for The Realization of Human Potential, and The Wright Graduate School for the Realization of Human Potential.

According to GuideStar.com, financial information for the Wright Foundation for The Realization of Human Potential revealed that both Judith and Bob Wright received \$130,000 each for compensation from related organizations. The 2014 Form 990 filed for the organization indicates faculty and other members such as Dr. Michael Zwell, make \$76,000 per year for working for the non-profit. It appears the Wrights also receive an additional \$45,000 each per year from the foundation for work at the Wright Graduate University.

Vetting Results

Bad Actor Vetting

No derogatory information was discovered in accordance with the [SEC "Bad Actor" ruling](#).

Fraud and Scam Screening

The vetting revealed multiple websites containing numerous complaints made against the Wright Foundation and the services offered. Many of the complaints are over seven-years old and make claims that the Wright's are "cult" leaders. Additionally, the vetting reviewed the training and courses offered by the Wrights and compared them against the indicators of a cult.

The Wright Foundation hired an external, third-party organization to conduct an

anonymous in-depth assessment and survey to explore any dissatisfaction within and among its students related to these assertions. This is the second survey conducted to date. As a point of reference, a cult is often defined as “a system of religious veneration and devotion directed toward a particular figure or object.” According to the Cult Awareness & Information Center.

The third-party survey, conducted by The Recla Group, LLC corporate counterintelligence and due diligence firm, included detailed questions combined from the Cult Awareness & Information Center as well as the International Cultic Studies Association.

Out of the 2530 potential “Yes/No” responses received, 89% were “No.” There was no indication to suggest that any single participant or group of participants believe that the Wright Foundation is a cult. This majority of the “yes” answers received pertained to two statements in particular:

--“*The members are expected to devote inordinate amounts of time to the group and group-related activities.*”

--“*The group is preoccupied with bringing in new members.*”

This is important to note since these two statements in of themselves pertain specifically to the culture of a growing educational institution. As such, the overall “Yes” responses weighed very little on the overall survey results and the survey verifies that those who attend the Wright Institution DO NOT harbor concerns it is a cult.

The overall assessment of this vetting verified that the Wright Foundation is not a cult, but rather an accredited educational institution that offers unique life skills and personal development training for students at the college, graduate, and post-graduate level in both credit and non-credit divisions.

Criminal Screening

No derogatory information was discovered.

Legal Issues

On December 20, 2000, the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation (IDPR) filed separate complaints alleging various disciplinary charges against Judith and Robert Wright.

The charges against Robert were dropped without prejudice and the charges against Judith Wright were later dismissed.

Business History

The Wright Foundation for Transformational Education, Inc., an inactive Wisconsin

corporation that was administratively dissolved on 3/11/14.

The Wright Foundation was originally an Illinois Not-For-Profit corporation originally formed on 3/05/1992 and voluntarily dissolved on 2/19/2017.

The Foundation for the Realization of Human Potential NFPs is an active Illinois Not-For-Profit Corporation originally formed on 7/25/2007 with the Wright Foundation for the Realization of Human Potential as an active d/b/a.

The Foundation has multiple DBAs to include the Wright Foundation for the Realization of Human Potential. The Wright Foundation also has a number of DBAs that appear to incorporate different divisions or to accommodate past names. These DBAs include:

- Wright Foundation for Transformational Leadership
- Wright Graduate Institute (name under which the graduate school was originally founded in Wisconsin)
- Wright Graduate School for the Realization of Human Potential (This DBA is required by the Illinois Board of Education)
- Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential
- Wright Graduate University

Dr. Judith Wright has written several books published by significant publishers along with two books co-written by Dr. Bob Wright. These books include:

Transformed! The Science of Spectacular Living
The Soft Addiction Solution
The Heart of the Fight: A Couple's Guide to Fifteen Common Fights, What They Really Mean, and How They Can Bring You Closer
The One Decision: Make the Single Choice That Will Lead to a Life of More
There Must Be More Than This: Finding More Life, Love and Meaning by
Overcoming Your Soft Addictions

Bob Wright has also written books on his own. These include

People Skills in the Beauty Industry
(published and distributed by Pivot Point International)
Beyond Time Management: Business with Purpose
(published by Butterworth-Heineman)

The Foundation has published one book to date written by both:

Foundations of Human Development

INTERVIEWS

Munzoor Shaikh

<http://www.westmonroepartners.com/People/S/ShaiKhMunzoor>

Munzoor Shaikh is a director at West Monroe Partners Management and Technology Consulting Firm. Munzoor was first introduced to Bob and Judith Wright in 2003 at a book event by a mutual friend. Since 2003, Munzoor has taken multiple business leadership training courses offered by the Wright Foundation. Munzoor completed trainings to include a group process, business leadership, and sales training course offered through the Wright Foundation. He has also taken multiple family and couples training classes offered by the Wright Foundation. Munzoor described his relationship with the Wrights starting out with him as a “student” but that his relationship with them has grown into a “strong friendship.”

Munzoor describes Bob Wright as an “innovative thinker” who is “deeply intellectual.” He also described Bob as a “visionary who helps individuals reach their max potential.” Munzoor describes Judith Wright as an “avid researcher” with a “strong knowledge base.” He also describes her as someone who is “inspirational” with a strong understanding on the “various spiritual traditions.”

Munzoor describes his overall experience with the Wrights and the Wright Foundation as “very positive” and “useful.” He further explained that he has used the lessons he learned from the Wrights in his own business and considers the training the Wrights offer as very practical. Munzoor explained he has taken courses through Yale and while those courses were “strong, they were not practical.” He described the information and classes presented by the Wrights and offered through the Wright Foundation as providing a “good practical way of making things work.” Munzoor has recommended multiple friends to the Wrights since 2003. He feels the Wright Foundation “attracts very sincere people,” several of which he has come to know personally since starting as a student.

Marilyn Pearson, M.D.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/marilynpearson/>

Marilyn Person is a General Internist at the Northwestern Medical Group in the Chicago, Illinois area. Marilyn was first introduced to Bob and Judith Wright through a mutual friend in approximately 1991. Marilyn explained that she was not in a “good marriage” at the time and that her husband did not want to do counseling. Instead, she and her

husband started coaching with Judith.

Marilyn explained that she first started coaching with Judith to assist her with her marriage and relationship and now works with both Bob and Judith. Marilyn is actively involved in the Wright's Women's Leadership program and has participated in the program for the last 25 years.

Marilyn described the Wrights as "the most committed people" she knows. Marilyn explained that the Wrights conduct business through their foundation and are committed to how "people on the planet operate" within themselves. Marilyn describes the Wrights as two of the "most beautiful people" she has ever met. She explained that the Wrights have had their ups and downs in business. She explained that their reputation has been attacked in the past, claiming their foundation was a cult but that it was "not her experience." Marilyn explained that even when their reputation was under attack, the

Wright's never pointed fingers and never blamed anyone. She described the Wrights as "high class" people who know how to "manage themselves."

Marilyn has recommended multiple people to the Wright Foundation over the last 25 years. She explained that the Wright's training is great for individuals who are "psychologically ready to make a commitment to themselves and who are looking for more from life." Marilyn explained that the Wrights have worked "as hard as anyone else in their own personal growth" and have "done the work" to get where they are today. Marilyn explained that the Wrights operate off the understanding of "mutuality" meaning that "all human beings are in this experience together."

VETTING SUMMARY

The initial assessment of information revealed numerous red flags directly tied to the Wrights and their associated business entities. However, the Wrights went above and beyond to operate in full transparency about their business history and experience. The vetting regarding the accusations made against the Wrights claiming their organization is a cult appear to be limited to the opinions of a very small number of former students.

In addition, no derogatory information was discovered to suggest that the Wrights, the Wright Foundation, or the Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential are a cult. The vetting also confirmed that they do not meet the criteria or definition required to be considered a cult. The vetting verified that the Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential is an accredited learning institution and offers various courses leading to degrees and certificates in Transformational Leadership and Coaching as well as certificates in Social and Emotional Intelligence.

The vetting also verified information regarding the legal issues stemming from complaints made against the Wrights by the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation. The vetting verified the Wrights' experience of the complaint made against them. Both Bob and Judith let their counseling licenses lapse intentionally to pursue careers as educators and coaches. The information discovered regarding the Wrights' business history is congruent with the information they self-disclosed.