

# LIARS INDEX® NEWS

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## **LIARS INDEX® RISES YET AGAIN**

Brookfield, WI - The **Liars Index®**, which tracks the percentage of resumes claiming false education credentials, has risen once more.

Jude Werra, President of the Brookfield, WI executive search and selection firm Jude M. Werra & Associates, reports another new high for the Index, which dates back sixteen years.

For the first half of 2011, more than one in five of education claims on resumes were found to be misrepresented. Coming in at 21.05%, the current rate was exceeded only on three other occasions out of the 32 calculations since 1995. And the two-year rolling average rate has reached an all-time record, 19.00%, the highest rate in the ten years since the prior record of 18.50% in 2001.

### **Our Latest Data:**

Data Point	2nd Half 2007	1st Half 2008	2nd Half 2008	1st Half 2009	2nd Half 2009	1st Half 2010	2nd Half 2010	1st Half 2011
Semi-annual Percentage	10.34%	15.91%	11.43%	15.87%	16.07%	21.43%	17.46%	21.05%
Prior Two Year Average	13.85%	14.25%	13.21%	13.39%	14.82%	16.20%	17.71%	19.00%

"While the vast majority of the education claims verified were exactly as represented, the sad story is that one out of five resumes these days puts forth massaged dates, majors and degrees. In fact, in about half of the cases, the schools had no record that the individuals had ever enrolled at their institutions", said Werra.

**Liars Index®/Add One**

"Too many employers accept academic claims at face value, without taking a simple step to verify them. Why spend hours screening a person whose candidacy looks promising on the surface, without first confirming that the education claims are true? It is always difficult to get an objective assessment of a prospect's on-the-job performance claims, while it is easy to verify the facts of a person's education, because the truth is but a call or an email away", he said.

There are those who see lying about education as but a harmless bit of inflation through creative writing, seeking to get a competitive leg up, but the person who lies up front in a relationship may feel free to fudge on most anything else on a day to day basis. "After all, if the person starts out the relationship misrepresenting an easily verifiable fact, why not go ahead and massage the less confirmable realities on the job?" Werra said.

"This new peak mirrors the high rates in the Liars Index® during the recessionary period of ten years ago, so it is tempting to speculate that as unemployment swells, some people are inclined to falsify their backgrounds, seeking any edge. But lying about education facts can push a person's candidacy way over the edge, taking them totally out of consideration. The easiest way to become noncompetitive in a job search is to have your resume rejected right at the start for misrepresenting the facts of your education", Werra said.

"Unfortunately, the lies persist because employers too often fail to check education claims. The wise employer will verify academic credentials as a first step in the screening process", he said.

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