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**NCCU Employees Used Fraudulent Social Security Numbers to
Acquire Driver's Licenses and State Employment**

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The Office of the State Auditor released a strategic review of North Carolina Central University (NCCU) today. The purpose of this review was to identify invalid social security numbers in the payroll system at NCCU and to investigate unusual payments noted on the university payroll. This review found, amongst other things, that NCCU failed to cross check employee information against the State Controller's verification report allowing fraudulent social security numbers (SSNs) to be used as valid identification.

"Future strategic reviews could focus on any State agency or university, therefore, everyone should make it a point to verify their employee's information," State Auditor Leslie Merritt said. "This review shows that the scope of this issue is larger than just NC Central and the penalties for violators can be pretty stiff." Merritt continued.

The review states that the federal penalty for "knowingly hiring unauthorized aliens" can be fines up to \$3,000 per employee and/or 6 months imprisonment.

In addition, the review reveals that the holders of the fraudulent SSNs also held valid NC driver's licenses. This fact raises the question as to whether the employees who presented fraudulent SSNs used those SSNs to acquire the valid licenses. The Auditor's office is working with DMV to answer this question.

"Identity theft is a growing problem that requires a proactive solution and a valid driver's license is the trusted method of identification. In order for DMV to fully engage with all available tools, they must be constantly vigilant and have the right policies in place to guide the process," said State Auditor Leslie Merritt.

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