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Onward Chester Students

To the Chairperson of the English Department at Chester State University

From the Provost and Dean

The Chancellor has approved the following letter for distribution by your department to students in all Freshman writing courses starting in the fall 2007 semester. Please duplicate the letter exactly and distribute a copy to each student.

To the entering class of 2007:

Congratulations on your acceptance at Chester State University, a citadel of culture in the West. We have developed new procedures to allow us to increase the quantity of writing and also to initiate you in the practice of outsourcing. These procedures have been designed by our School of Business.

1. All your essays will be on a uniform-size special paper (8½ x 11"), in black 10 point type, with 1½" margins all around. You may buy packages of this paper at the University bookstore. Use a cover sheet, put your full name, last first, by the top right margin of each sheet of text, along with the sheet number. Each package of paper at the bookstore will include a sample of the format.

2. After your class has submitted a set of papers, they will be delivered to our electronic mailing room, scanned digitally, and sent to a processing center in Asia, currently in Calcutta, India. There graduate students of English will correct them. Within one business day the corrected papers will be returned, again digitally, to our electronic mailing room, and formatted for you.

3. Should you find Hindi words among the comments, you are encouraged to consult Hindi dictionaries in the reference room of McPherson Library. A valuable by-product of such consultation will be that you will acquire foreign language vocabulary. There will be no tuition bill for any Hindi words you learn.

4. Depending on fees the university must pay for the grading in India—which will depend largely on foreign exchange rates—we may have the work done during the spring semester at a Canton University, in the people's Republic of China. Such a change might limit any increase in tuition fees, and would also, give you invaluable experience with Chinese vocabulary.

Besides electronic outsourcing saving you money, it will allow a tripling of class size, thus increasing your opportunities for social contact. Still another benefit will be to help Chester State remain competitive in salaries paid to the athletic director, coaches, and their supporting staff, and to double the number of luxury boxes for successful businessmen and alumni, and thus increasing their pride in the university. Remember, the people of our state have shown again and again that business and extramural sports *are* American culture. With your enthusiastic help, Chester State will remain a citadel of culture in the west.

Melvin Landsberg is Professor of English at the University of Kansas, in Lawrence, and author of *“Dos Passos’ Path to ‘U.S.A.’”*