



## ITAC TELLS COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PROTECT THEIR PERSONAL DATA AS PART OF THEIR CURRICULUM

### *Research shows those ages 18 to 24 are at increased risk of identity theft*

**WASHINGTON, DC, August 17, 2010** – Hundreds of thousands of young adults soon will be leaving home for the first time to attend college. As part of the transition, ITAC, the Identity Theft Assistance Center, advises them to protect their personal information.

“Young adults need to understand that limiting the exposure of their social security number, date of birth, passwords and PINs is as important to their financial well being as buckling a seatbelt is to their personal safety. It’s not an option,” said ITAC President Anne Wallace.

The 2010 Javelin Research & Strategy Identity Fraud Research Report, co-sponsored by ITAC, found that it takes young adults ages 18 to 24 nearly twice as many days to detect fraud, compared to other age groups, and thus are fraud victims for longer periods of time. They are less likely to monitor accounts regularly and the least likely group to take advantage of monitoring programs offered by financial institutions. They are also more likely to be victimized by people they know.

“First time college students are faced with a multitude of changes and challenges as they go into a new school year and the last thing they need to worry about is having their identity stolen,” said Intersections Inc. CEO and founder Michael Stanfield. Intersections Inc. is an ITAC partner and a leading provider of consumer and corporate identity risk management services that has protected more than 30 million consumers. “Intersections and ITAC believe that education and awareness can help students change their habits and minimize their exposure to identity theft. We are committed to helping students understand the risks and the steps they should take if an identity theft does occur.”

ITAC advises students to:

- Never carry your social security card in your purse and wallet. Keep it and other documents like your passport and birth certificate in a safe place.
- Never share your PIN or passwords and change your password frequently.
- Avoid wi-fi spots on or off campus because they are not secure. Make sure your operating system, browser and anti-virus software are updated and avoid making transactions that involve personal data.
- Monitor your accounts online regularly and contact your bank or credit card company if you find suspicious activity. Be careful about what you reveal about yourself on social networks – do not post your date of birth, street address or social security number, for example. Don’t fall for phishing emails that look like they’re from a social network but are actually used by criminals to steal personal information.

For more information, visit [www.identitytheftassistance.org](http://www.identitytheftassistance.org).

## About ITAC

ITAC, the Identity Theft Assistance Center ([www.identitytheftassistance.org](http://www.identitytheftassistance.org)), is the national advocate for identity theft victims and a leading voice on identity policy. Millions of consumers have access to the ITAC victim assistance service through our members – the financial services companies who support ITAC and offer it as a free service for their customers. ITAC is dedicated to protecting all consumers through education, research and the criminal prosecution of identity crime. Through our partnership with Intersections Inc, ITAC's world-class victim assistance and identity management service is available to everyone through ITAC Sentinel® ([www.itacsentinel.com](http://www.itacsentinel.com)).

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