



**NEWS FROM:
THE JOINT COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ETHICS**

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SUNY Cortland Clerk Violated State Gift Ban by Accepting More Than \$4,600 in Tips and Rewards

ALBANY – (June 13, 2014) The Joint Commission on Public Ethics (Commission) announced today that a clerk at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Cortland admitted to violating State gift restrictions by accepting thousands of dollars in sports apparel, tickets, and cash tips in connection with his service as a State employee.

Michael Partigianoni, a Stores Clerk 2 at SUNY Cortland who works cleaning laundry and sports equipment at the university, paid a fine to the school of \$4,672, simultaneously settling disciplinary charges with SUNY as well as the investigation by the Commission. The fine represents the value of the improper gifts Partigianoni received between 2009 and 2013. Partigianoni, as part of the settlement, was also required to complete supplemental ethics training with the Commission.

State Public Officer's Law [section \(73\)\(5\)](#) prohibits State employees from receiving any gift of more than nominal value – including cash, travel and meals – that was intended as a reward for performing their official duties.

A copy of the settlement may be viewed by clicking [HERE](#).