Dear Johnnette,

The advertisement for the new head of the LSU flagship campus has sparked conversation about what it does not require: an academic background. Many around the state think the Supervisors are just keeping their options open, while others speculate the ad was tailored to ensure Economic Development Secretary Stephen Moret could be considered. For months he has been mentioned as a serious contender.

Moret is no stranger to higher education in Louisiana. In 2002, while serving as a public policy fellow for the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, he authored a white paper on overhauling higher education in the state. The paper, which recommended steering students away from four-year colleges into community colleges and investing more heavily in the flagship campus, may provide some insight into where he would take LSU if he were selected. "The state will not capture the full range of economic development benefits from higher education without a nationally competitive research university. Louisiana will have to make tough choices to get there," he wrote. Click here to read more.

And a special thank you to everyone who came to the SBBA launch event a couple of weeks ago. It was encouraging to see so many people committed to growing higher education in NWLA.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher Education (SBBA) launch included a higher education forecast from members of statewide governing boards. KTBS-TV3, 12.17.12
- The faculty at LSUHSC-Shreveport has passed a resolution asking the LSU Supervisors to suspend their plans for reorganization until further input. SBBA Website
Louisiana Higher Education News

- The advertisement posted for the new head of the LSU Baton Rouge Campus does not list a background in academics as a requirement, the top priority of the LSU faculty. Faculty Senate President Kevin Cope tells The Advocate, "It's shocking they would so quickly dismiss our top priority." The Advocate, 12.28.12.
- Speculation is running rampant that the LSU advertisement was written to ensure Louisiana's Economic Development Secretary Stephen Moret could qualify for the post. Here's a look at what one blogger has to say about it. The INDsider, 12.28.12
- Following town hall meetings around the state, Interim LSU President Bill Jenkins put a website up to provide additional information on the planned reorganization. LSU System

National Higher Education News

- The majority of the fastest growing occupations in the U.S. require only an associate's degree, and a new study shows graduates with an associate's degree are earning more upon graduation than those entering the market with a bachelor's degree. Forbes, 12.31.12.
- Average tuition at private colleges rose by the smallest percentage in 40 years after after more and more families questioned whether the high cost is worth it. The Wall Street Journal, 12.31.12

For more information on higher education in Northwest Louisiana, please visit our website at www.sbba4he.org

Sincerely,

Johnette Magner, Ph.D., Executive Director
Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher Education

You are welcome to forward this newsletter to others in your network who are interested in higher education.

For more information on becoming a member of the SBBA, or providing direct support for our work, please contact Dr. Johnette Magner at jmagner@sbba4he.org

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