Dear Johnette,

According to the Director of the State Bond Commission, the construction budget fund for the State of Louisiana is running out of money. This could prove yet another hardship for Louisiana's colleges and universities since building repairs come from this account.

If you are wondering where some of the money has gone, just drive around the LSU campus or read the Daily Reveille article about the numerous multi-million dollar construction projects underway at LSU Baton Rouge. An LSU official told the student newspaper they are experiencing "a period of unprecedented growth in terms of construction."

And questions are emerging about the reliability of the U.S. News & World Report annual rankings of America's colleges after five schools recently came clean about falsifying data. The editor of U.S. News said he would not be surprised if more cases emerged but denies there is a pervasive problem. Tulane was among the five correcting data submitted in previous years.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The Shreveport Times Editorial Board recognized BPCC's phenomenal growth in recent years with an editorial praising the college. In just five years, enrollment at BPCC has climbed from 4759 to 7710 students. The Shreveport Times, 02.07.13
- The director of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service has been named Interim Chancellor at LSU Alexandria. Paul Coreil had planned to retire from his current post in September, but he has agreed to serve in this interim spot until a permanent replacement is found. Alexandria Town Talk, 02.06.13
Louisiana Higher Education News

- Louisiana’s construction budget fund is expected to go broke in about 4 months, and that could mean there is no money for college building repairs. *Associated Press, 02.11.13*

- LSU Baton Rouge is "experiencing a period of unprecedented growth in terms of construction" with at least seven multi-million dollar projects underway, including a project to make the campus more pedestrian and bike friendly. *The Daily Reveille, 02.09.13*

- The new head of the UL System, Dr. Sandra Woodley, won the approval of the media during a recent visit to Monroe. The News-Star Editorial Board described her as a "winner for the UL System." *Monroe News-Star, 02.06.13*

- The LSU Transition Advisory Team heard from a number of experts last week on how to best go about their work. According to one consultant, "There is no single best approach; there is no model to follow." *The Advocate, 02.09.13*

- The Advocate Editorial Board weighed in on the recent workforce study showing New Orleans residents lacks the skills needed for the jobs of the future. "The same can be said of every community in Louisiana." *The Advocate, 2.10.13*

National Higher Education News

- Tulane is one of five schools around the nation that has admitted to reporting incorrect data to U.S. News & World Report, and experts are wondering how many more there may be. Scott Jaschik of Inside Higher Ed says "There's definitely a widespread feeling that this goes well beyond those who have been caught or come forward." *Washington Post, 02.07.13*

For more information on higher education in Northwest Louisiana, please visit our website at [www.sbba4he.org](http://www.sbba4he.org)

Sincerely,

*Johnnette 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
Forward this email

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