Dear Johnnette,

Extensive news coverage questioning the future of the LSU Medical School in Shreveport has caught the attention of the administration and legislators down south. In Sunday's Shreveport Times, there were 3 news stories, an editorial, a guest opinion piece and a letter to the editor all urging lawmakers to find a solution. Senator Greg Tarver says he is 70 to 80 percent sure the money will be found.

"This is not one person's job," he said. "This is the whole Louisiana delegation's job to save the LSU Medical School because it helps everyone. It helps the whole economy in North Louisiana."

For LSUS, this is a week for the history books. On Wednesday they will receive approval from the Board of Regents for their first doctoral degree in the school's history, a Doctorate in Education. Congratulations to LSUS, and a special thank you to Bubba Rasberry and the Board of Regents for their support of this effort.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The Shreveport Times Editorial Board made its views on medical school funding quite clear in Sunday's editorial. "This time the Governor and lawmakers may have gone too far, and when it comes to preserving the viability of the state's lone medical school in North Louisiana, inaction is no longer an option." Shreveport Times, 05.19.13

- Shreveport Times reporter Michele Marcotte spoke with local leaders about the economic impact losing the medical school would have on the community. "It would be devastating if we lost the medical school," said Dick Bremer, President of the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce. Shreveport Times, 05.19.13

- Interim LSU Chancellor Bill Jenkins assures NWLA residents that the LSU System is committed to fighting for funding for the medical school. Shreveport Times,
05.19.13

- The Louisiana Ethics Board has ruled Dr. John George may serve as the CEO of the Biomedical Research Foundation while holding a seat on the LSU Board of Supervisors without violating state ethics laws. George receives no financial compensation for either position. *The Advocate, 05.19.13*
- The Board of Regents is expected to approve an Ed.D. for LSUS on Wednesday. This will be the first doctoral program ever approved for LSUS. *Shreveport Times, 05.19.13*

**Louisiana Higher Education News**

- Higher Education officials say cuts to state funding of higher ed have led to a backlog of maintenance worth about $1.7 billion. Commissioner of Administration Kristy Nichols disagrees. "From our perspective it is outlandish to say the administration and the capital outlay process is not working for higher education." *The Advocate, 05.20.13*
- By the end of 2013, LSU Baton Rouge will have a new addition for the football stadium, tennis complex, gymnastic practice facility, and nutrition center as part of the athletics complex. *The Advocate, 05.20.13*
- Both LSU Baton Rouge and Southern University Baton Rouge have signed contracts with outside providers to bring complete degree programs online. Under the agreements, LSU will receive 50% of the revenue but Southern will only receive 30%. *Baton Rouge Business Report, 05.13.13*

**National Higher Education News**

- The managing partner of a venture capital firm describes what he believes is ahead for higher education in the U.S. John Backus of New Atlantic Ventures writes in the Washington Post, "I would not be surprised to see several hundred private colleges merge, shrink, or fail over the next decade." *The Washington Post, 05.19.13*

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@sba4he.org

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