



Shreveport-Bossier  
Business Alliance  
For Higher Education

## Continuing Education

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### Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"Louisiana Higher Education will have the least attractive benefits package in North America. I challenge any person to find a more paltry retirement plan at any legitimate university in the United States or Canada." - Professor Dayne Sherman in a comment about the impending reduction in the employer match for anyone hired by a Louisiana college after July 1st. The retirement match is dropping to 1.8 percent.

### Dear Johnette,

The Lumina Foundation released a study last week examining the number of adults in each state with a post-secondary degree. Louisiana ranked 49th in the nation with only 27.9 percent of adults having a post-secondary degree. The national average is 38.7 percent. It's important to note that a post-secondary degree includes two-year degrees, which are currently in high demand from employers.

According to Louisiana Higher Education Commissioner Jim Purcell, by 2018, 52 percent of jobs in the state will require some post-secondary education.

Another study published last week, this one examining the New Orleans workforce, reported that a majority of African American male adults are now unemployed. The report concluded the primary reason was that only 15% of black males have a post-secondary degree.

Clearly, the job market is changing, and college is becoming even more critical for those seeking gainful employment. That's why we at the SBBA are pleased to see our area institutions offering more degree programs in NWLA. The article below from *The Times* describes in detail what two universities are now offering.

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### Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- In the 2012 legislative session, elected officials debated a possible merger between LSUS and Louisiana Tech. The measure failed to gain the 2/3 majority vote needed to take place, but since then, both schools have added new programs to the NWLA area market. The Shreveport Times ran an extensive piece on Saturday examining the progress each school has made. [\*\*\*Shreveport Times\*\*\*](#), **06.15.13**
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## Louisiana Higher Education News



### Quick Links

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- At the start of the session, some lawmakers raised the issue of the growing TOPS budget, but nothing was done to address it. Every time colleges raise tuition, the TOPS budget climbs with it and consumes a larger piece of the allotted state funding for higher education. ***The Associated Press, 06.17.13***
- In an opinion piece that ran in newspapers around the state, South Louisiana college professor Dayne Sherman writes about the higher education disappointments this legislative session. "Let me be very clear," Sherman says, "Your local university is dying and this session did nothing to revive it or any other suffocating Louisiana university." ***The Shreveport Times, 06.17.13***
- Louisiana adults over the age of 25 who lack a bachelor's degree, but have at least 60 credit hours of college, are now eligible to enroll in an online program offered by the universities in the UL System. Participants take an additional 60 hours and receive a Bachelor's of Arts. At just \$325 a credit hour, the program is among the least expensive online programs available. ***Monroe News-Star, 06.15.13***
- Bob Mann, the former communications director for Governor Kathleen Blanco, ridicules both Jindal and the LSU Board of Supervisors in last Sunday's edition of The Advocate. He writes of the Jindal-appointed Supervisors, "To serve on this Board, Governor Jindal apparently demanded they surrender their independence and self-respect." ***The Advocate, 06.16.13***
- The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) has voted to censure Southern University for laying off 70 professors, including 19 senior professors, since declaring financial exigency two years ago. ***The Advocate, 06.16***
- A study released by Loyola University last week reported that half of African American men living in New Orleans are unemployed. The study attributed the growing figure to a lack of post-secondary education. Only 15% of black men in New Orleans have an associate's degree or higher. ***The Advocate, 06.15.13***

## National Higher Education News

- U.S. student loan debt, which is now in excess of \$1 trillion, has become a real money-maker for the federal government. Projected government profit for this year is over \$50 billion. ***USA Today, 06.15.13***

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

North Louisiana  
Economic Partnership

Sincerely,

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

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*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](mailto:jmagner@sbba4he.org)*

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