



Shreveport-Bossier
Business Alliance
For Higher Education

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"Five years ago, only half of families reported using grants and scholarships to pay for college. This year, two-thirds of families did. Meanwhile parents are contributing less of their income and savings to college costs, covering 27% of college costs compared with 37% in 2010." - *How America Pays for College*, a study released last week by Sallie Mae.

Dear Johnette,

The state funding estimates for next fiscal year delivered to Louisiana's colleges this month are nothing short of devastating. Despite the additional monies secured for higher education in the eleventh hour by the legislature, the cuts are every bit as dramatic as they've been since they started in 2008. No chancellors have publicly spoken of possible layoffs or furloughs, but some schools will no doubt have to consider these options.

Here is how the schools in Northwest Louisiana fared compared to last fiscal year:

- LSUS: cut \$2.4 million (24.7%)
- Grambling: cut \$2.6 million (16.7%)
- Northwestern: cut \$5 million (19.7%)
- Louisiana Tech: cut \$8.6 million (23.6%)

BPCC only experienced a 5.0 percent cut, but with its annual increase in student population of about 1000 per year, the cut per student is sizable and could threaten its ability to fulfill its mission. In fact, BPCC receives the least funding per student of any college in the 16 Southern states that make up the SREB states. Southern Shreveport's cut is 1.4 percent; they fared among the best in the state.

Down south, LSU Baton Rouge was hardly spared. The flagship campus state funding is dropping from \$132 million last year to \$108 million this next fiscal year, a cut of 22 percent.

Barry Erwin eloquently stated the challenge before us in CABL's newsletter this week. "At some point we need to come terms as a state with what we want and expect from postsecondary education, and then figure out a way to make the tough policy and funding decisions that will give it a chance to succeed."

With cuts this deep and for this long, our only hope to maintain the vitality of our NWLA institutions may be finding and committing to a set of local and regional solutions. We must begin that dialog in earnest.



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Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The Shreveport Times Editorial Board thanked the LSU Board of Supervisors for not including a demotion of the LSUHSC-Shreveport Chancellor in its plans for reorganization. The Shreveport-Bossier community and SBBA member organizations fought hard over the last six months to keep Dr. Barish as a chancellor for the local medical school. [Shreveport Times, 07.28.13](#)
- Bossier Parish Community College is now offering five courses online for free. The courses, all developmental level in math, English and reading, had 500 students enrolled this spring. BPCC is hoping students will use these courses to prepare for placement tests and improve their chances of placing into credit-bearing courses. [Inside Higher Ed, 07.19.13](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

- The LSU Transition Advisory Team unveiled their reorganization plan on Friday to the Board of Supervisors. Absent was an organization chart, which in its first iteration would have demoted the Chancellor of LSUHSC-Shreveport to a Vice President. [The Advocate, 07.29.13](#)
- LSU President F. King Alexander had a surprise announcement at last week's Board of Supervisors meeting: up to four percent raises for faculty in the LSU system. Sadly, dramatic cuts in state funding at some LSU schools may impede their ability to give the raises. [The Advocate, 07.29.13](#)
- The Council for a Better Louisiana (CABL) makes the case in this week's newsletter for more attention to higher education. "Little by little it's sinking and one of these days we're going to wake up and realize we've allowed ourselves to turn higher education into something that's not just mediocre, but actually pretty bad." [CABL Wire, 07.29.13](#)
- The head of the search committee for the LSU President, Blake Chatelain, defends the process in this week's Shreveport Times. "In summary, this search was conducted in a manner consistent with presidential searches conducted at most public research universities," wrote Chatelain. [Shreveport Times, 07.29.13](#)



National Higher Education News

- The Congress has reportedly reached a compromise on

[Shreveport Chamber](#)

[North Louisiana
Economic Partnership](#)

the interest rate for government-backed student loans. Rather than having rates set by Congress, they will be tied to the bond market, which for now, should keep the interest rate below four percent. Congressional researchers project, however, that by 2018 the rates could be over seven percent. ***Time Magazine, 07.29.13***

- A national higher education organization is forming a commission to take a hard look at the governing boards of America's colleges and universities. Stories of clashes around the country between boards and administrators have prompted this examination. ***Washington Post, 07.24.13***
- A quality education does not have to break the bank. You just have to know how to navigate the higher education system. In this article in Mainstreet.com, consumers get some valuable guidance on avoiding sticker shock. ***Mainstreet.com, 07.29.13***

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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