



Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"Congress should grant institutions the authority to set borrowing limits at lower levels for groups of students based on factors such as the particular program of study, course load, and level of academic preparation." - Letter to Congress from the American Council on Education.



Quick Links

Dear Johnette,

Over the weekend, I heard a story about woman in Texas who feels forced to take a job in a city she does not want to live in because it pays better than anything she can find in Austin. Sadly, this woman doesn't have much of a choice because she owes the federal government \$340,000 in student loans.

While that amount is not representative of what most debtors owe, it provides a glimpse into the amount of student loans available to students regardless of need. Financial aid counselors at local schools are full of stories about students borrowing excessively for cars, boats, and even cosmetic surgery. If the students are eligible for the money and want it, the schools can't stop them.

That's why I was pleased to see that The American Council on Education sent a letter to Congress this week supporting more authority for schools to set borrowing limits based on common sense variables. This suggestion, along with many others, will be considered by Congress as they begin hearings on reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The Centenary College development team made big news this week with their announcement that they raised \$6.6 million this year in private donations. That amount was up \$400,000 from the previous year. "Our donors are continuing to see the value Centenary offers the community and have helped us in navigating some troubling times," said Fred Landry, Associate Vice President of Development. *Shreveport Times*, 07.31.13

Louisiana Higher Education News

- The faculty at LSU Alexandria will receive a one-time

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bonus of 4% rather than the 4% pay raise in the works for the faculty at LSU Baton Rouge. Each LSU campus will decide whether they can afford the pay hike announced for the faculty in Baton Rouge. ***The Advocate, 07.31.13***



- A faculty member at Nunez Community College goes after Governor Bobby Jindal in New Orleans magazine. Dawn Ruth writes, "Governor Jindal brags about his heroic work for higher education, but the numbers tell a different story." ***New Orleans Magazine, 08.01.13***
- The Chancellor of Southern University in Baton Rouge is optimistic that the days of declining enrollment may be over for the college. Attendance at a recent summer orientation was up. Since Katrina, Southern has been averaging a loss of between 300 and 400 students a year. ***The Advocate, 08.01.13***

National Higher Education News

- President Obama is expected to sign a bill this week that would tie student loan rates to the 10-year Treasury. This takes subsidized loans from 6.8% to 3.8% for this fall, but long term there are no assurances they won't climb back up. The cap is set at 8.25%. ***U.S. News & World Report, 08.05.13***
- The Education Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives has requested input on how to improve the Higher Education Act. The American Council on Education submitted suggestions on behalf of 40 college and accreditation associations. ***Acenet, 08.02.13***
- Chancellors and Presidents from 160 universities sent a letter to Congress asking them to increase their support for higher education. Tulane's Scott Cowen was among those signing. "The federal government's partnership with universities has, to a great extent, built our country as we know it today." ***The Advocate, 08.05.13***

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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SBBA | 400 Edwards Street | Shreveport | LA | 71101