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EDITORIAL

LSU Health Shreveport gets some good news

After months of deliberation about realigning the internal administrative structure of the LSU System throughout the state, the final iteration managed to leave the LSU Health Shreveport chancellor position in place.

A report from the LSU Transition Advisory Team was presented to the LSU Board of Supervisors Friday.

It is not only a good move for the LSU System, but the best one for fiscal health of the local vast medical campus as well.

In a proposal first highlighted in October 2012, the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges recommended stripping the LSU Health Shreveport campus of a chancellor.

The move caused a large local outcry because, essentially, it would mean less autonomy and more bureaucracy for the local facility. In other words, a giant step backwards to where the institution was administratively more than 13 years ago.

It's pretty well recognized that LSU Health Shreveport is a gem not only in the local medical community but throughout the rest of the state and the LSU System as well.

And it is also no secret that it first began achieving that status after the seating of an autonomous chancellor about 13 years ago. That was something this community fought hard for at that time, and it was something that it fought hard to keep this past year.

Thanks to the lobbying efforts of many in the community, the LSU Board of Supervisors finally got the message, loud and clear: Don't fix it if it's not broken.

Thanks for listening to us ... again. LSU Health Shreveport supporters from across the state made all the difference. All of the letters, the guest opinions, the phone calls, did the job. Northwest Louisiana, give yourselves a pat on the back. We pulled together and fought to keep LSU Health Shreveport on its prosperous track.

However, the journey is just beginning.

We still have a struggle ahead, not only with changes coming through the public-private partnership being worked out with the Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana, but also with the continued state funding shortages for the operation of the LSU Medical School in Shreveport. There's no easy street in our immediate future, but the road just got a little less bumpy.

Once again, thank you to the Board of Supervisors for listening to us, and thank you to northwest Louisiana for fighting to keep our gem shining brightly in the state and national medical community.