



Shreveport-Bossier
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For Higher Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"The increase in enrollment was accompanied by an increase in the retention of students to Louisiana Tech, from the 2012 freshman cohort. 78.6 percent of new students in fall 2012 returned to Louisiana Tech, which is an increase of 1.4 percent over last year. This also represents the highest freshman cohort retention rate in the University of Louisiana System."
-- *Shreveport Times* article on enrollment this fall at Louisiana Tech

Dear Johnette,

The discussion about whether University President searches should be secret or transparent is hardly a debate limited to Louisiana. The high profile secret hiring of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to head up the University of California system has invigorated a statewide discussion on the topic in California. The arguments both for and against secrecy are largely the same stated throughout the debate in Louisiana.

Prior to 2011, the Cal State system held open searches with finalists making public campus visits, but the system reportedly switched to secret searches because they were "seeing good candidates drop out early." Faculty at Cal State Long Beach, the campus King Alexander left to run LSU, are pushing the system for a transparent search for his replacement.

Higher education policy professor at Southern Methodist University Michael McLendon summed up the challenge well in his remarks to the LA Times. He noted more and more state higher education boards are pushing for secrecy while other constituencies, such as faculty and students, are pushing for transparency. "The question will be where will we draw the line to balance those interests," he said.

Representatives of LSU, now headed up by Alexander, have said finalists for the Chancellor positions at both LSUS and LSUA will be released to the public.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Louisiana Tech's freshman class grew by 245 students this year, and the average ACT for the class jumped from 24.1 last year to 24.7, which is the highest average freshman class ACT in the University of Louisiana System. [*Shreveport Times*, 09.19.13](#)
- After 15 months with an Interim Chancellor, LSUS has begun its search for a permanent replacement for retired



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Chancellor Vince Marsala. LSU has hired a national search firm based in Washington, D.C. to manage the searches for both LSU Shreveport and LSU Alexandria. [Shreveport Times, 09.23.13](#)

- Both the Shreveport Times and Monroe News-Star ran editorials this weekend on the LSU System's fight to keep private the names of finalists for the LSU President's job. Both advocated for transparency over secrecy. [Shreveport Times, 09.22.13](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

- The Advocate's Koran Addo writes that LSU 2015, the 100-page study submitted to the LSU Supervisors, has already "gone so cold after so much hype." LSU 2015 study consultant Cristel Slaughter reportedly told the Advocate she's heard rumors the Transition Team report will be "cast aside." [The Advocate, 09.19.13](#)
- The University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) is reporting an enrollment increase of 100 students compared to last fall and like Louisiana Tech, a record number of incoming freshmen. [Monroe News-Star, 09.21.13](#)
- The Board of Regents meets with System Presidents this week to see how Louisiana colleges and universities are managing another round of budget cuts. Most universities are also bracing for mid-year cuts, which have become commonplace in the state. Regents Deputy Commissioner Barbara Goodson told Mike Hasten with Gannett, "I don't know anyone who's not hurting." [The Monroe News-Star, 09.21.13](#)
- The LSU Student Union Theater in Baton Rouge lost \$45,000 on a much-publicized live interview of Edwin Edwards by former CNN personality Larry King. Edwards was paid \$6000 for the appearance while King was paid more than \$66,000. [The Advocate, 09.23.13](#)



National Higher Education News

- The secret selection of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to head the University of California System has sparked the same debate in California that has been raging in Louisiana. Napolitano was chosen during a secret process with no other finalists named. The fight that has ensued since the selection of King Alexander to head LSU is mentioned in this Los Angeles Times article. [Los Angeles Times, 09.22.13](#)
- A new federal appointee to the U.S. Department of Education is expected to help shape Obama's plans to rate colleges on affordability and quality. Jamiene Studley is a former President of Skidmore

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College. ***Inside HigherEd, 09.23.13***

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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