



Shreveport-Bossier
Business Alliance
For Higher Education

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"The academic job market is structured in many respects like a drug gang, with an expanding mass of outsiders and a shrinking core of insiders. Even if the probability that you might get shot in academia is relatively small (unless you mark student papers very harshly), one can observe similar dynamics." -
Alexandre Afonso, lecturer in political economy at King's College London.

Dear Johnette,

On Wednesday, the Board of Regents will vote whether to allow Northwestern State University to begin offering a Doctorate in Nursing Practice. This degree program enjoys strong support in the region for obvious reasons: we desperately need a DNP offered in North Louisiana, and Northwestern is the ideal school to offer it. Northwestern has the largest nursing program in the state, and this program was the only nursing program in Louisiana to be ranked among the top 100 in the nation last year by U.S. News & World Report.

At this time, Louisiana is suffering a shortage of primary care physicians, and the situation is expected to worsen. Nurse practitioners are needed to help fill that void now and in the future, especially in our rural communities. Already, 21% of Louisiana residents have little or no access to primary care.

For the last year, the SBBA has strongly advocated for this program with our many community partners including Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover, The Shreveport Times, Willis-Knighton Health System, Christus Schumpert, the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, the Bossier Chamber of Commerce, the Shreveport Bossier African-American Chamber of Commerce, the North Louisiana Economic Partnership, the Committee of One Hundred, and the Biomedical Research Foundation.

The Times Editorial Page Editor Jeff Benson summed up the views and hopes of all the supporters listed above when he addressed the Board of Regents in his Sunday editorial, "We believe the school has the experience, faculty, and facilities needed to create the best DNP program in the state. So how about an early Christmas present?"

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The Shreveport Times Editorial Board is asking the Louisiana Board of Regents to give final approval on Wednesday to Northwestern's proposal to offer a



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Doctorate of Nursing Practice Degree. [Shreveport Times, 11.29.13](#)

- LSUS is increasing its online offerings and so far, the results appear promising for boosting enrollment. "When we've chosen to offer a course online, the interest is amazing," said LSUS interim Chancellor Paul Sisson. [The Shreveport Times, 12.02.13](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Retiring President of Tulane University, Scott Cowen, is writing a book about his time steering the college through Hurricane Katrina and then rebuilding in the aftermath. "For a couple of years after Hurricane Katrina, I could barely speak in public about what happened," he said. [NOLA.com, 12.02.13](#)
- Over the last six years, state funding for Grambling has gone from \$32 million to \$13 million, forcing the university to make drastic cuts to avoid financial exigency. According to UL System President Sandra Woodley, Grambling is in the worst financial shape of any school in her system. [The Advocate, 12.01.13](#)
- For Southern University in Baton Rouge, things are looking up this year. Freshman enrollment picked up this last fall, and U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu has managed to secure a five-year freeze on repayments of hurricane-related loans. [The Advocate, 12.01.13](#)
- The E.J. Ourso School of Business on the LSU campus in Baton Rouge has been ranked #10 on a list of the 50 most beautiful business schools in the world. The building was completed in 2012. [The Daily Reveille, 12.02.13](#)



National Higher Education News

- According to the recent ACT College Choice Report, many students are signing up for majors that will lead to higher wages even when the major is a poor fit for the student. For example, the report states 32% of females majoring in health sciences and technologies had a moderate or poor fit due to lack of interest or academic weakness in the area. [The Daily Reveille, 11.24.14](#)
- Although universities have scaled back their numbers of available tenure-track positions, the number of newly-minted Ph.D.s hitting the job market each year has stayed steady. In this piece published in Slate, one observer argues there are many similarities between today's universities and drug cartels. [Slate, 11.29.13](#)

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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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