Dear Johnette,

Transparency was a recurring theme in higher education stories this week. The Advocate in Baton Rouge is pushing for transparent searches for the new heads of the Board of Regents and Community and Technical College Board, while some legislators are pushing for more transparency in the legislative scholarship program that provides free rides for Louisiana students to Tulane. To date, only two legislators have reportedly released the names of the recipients of their Tulane scholarships.

The Louisiana Board of Regents is meeting in Shreveport on Wednesday, January 22. Their general meeting will be open to the public, so we encourage everyone to turn out and show their support for our local institutions. We'll have more information next week on times and locations.

We should also know sometime over the next few weeks the individual selected to serve as the new President of LSU Alexandria. The field has been narrowed to three finalists, and interviews begin next week. Unlike the search for the LSU System President, the names of these finalists have been released to the public.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Member and Past Chairman of the Board of Regents Bob Levy is expected to retire as District Attorney from the 3rd judicial district later this year. Levy has served in the office since 1990. *The Monroe News-Star, 01.06.14*

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Senate Bill 1 for the upcoming legislative session addresses the legislative scholarships to Tulane. Senator Dan Claitor, R-Baton Rouge, wants to require that Tulane publish the names of the recipients, their hometowns, and the names of the awarding lawmakers. *lapolitics.com, 01.07.14*
• Claitor's actions follow failed media attempts to obtain the names of the recipients from both the Clerk of the House and Secretary of the Senate.  
  Houmatoday.com, 01.07.13
• The GED will no longer be the alternative to a high school diploma. The state switches this month to a new test called the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) which is much less expensive for students. Monroe News Star, 01.05.13
• LSU Alexandria has released the names of three finalists for the school's top job. They are from Arkansas, Georgia, and Hawaii. Following interviews next week, LSU System President King Alexander will recommend a candidate to the LSU Board of Supervisors. LSAU website, 01.03.14
• Two of the five higher education boards will be looking for new leadership this spring. The Louisiana Board of Regents and the Community and Technical College Board will be filling their top jobs. The Advocate Editorial Board is pushing for an open, transparent process. "Transparent searches are the best way to ensure the public that the best candidates are selected for these important jobs." The Advocate, 01.06.14

National Higher Education News

• Glenn Harlan Reynolds, the author of a recently published book on higher education, writes in the Wall Street Journal about the rising costs of higher ed and how families can ensure a degree is worth what they pay for it. "To make college a good value again, today's parents and students need to be skeptical, frugal, and demanding." The Wall Street Journal, 01.03.14

For more information on higher education in Northwest Louisiana, please visit our website at www.sbb4he.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@sbb4he.org