

Continuing Education

Volume 3 Number 3- *The Weekly Newsletter of the SBBA* - January 21, 2014



Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"Our students are going to have the most cutting edge college recreation facility in the country." - Laurie Braden, UREC Director at LSU in Baton Rouge, on the new facility under construction on the LSU campus



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Dear Johnette,

For higher education leaders throughout Louisiana, today they must have felt like Noah seeing the rainbow at the end of the flood.

During a news conference around noon, Governor Jindal agreed to a proposal from the higher education system leaders that would stabilize funding for next year at current levels, allow schools to keep additional dollars from tuition increases, and pump an additional \$40 million into higher education. For more information on the plan, [click here](#).

While **all schools are winners** under the plan, the competition now set up among colleges to receive some of these dollars means not all schools are poised to win to the same degree. Schools with strong fund-raising capacity, a robust research program, and degree offerings needed by the workforce will be the biggest winners under this plan.

According to an annual report released yesterday called the Grapevine Report, Louisiana has led the nation in cuts in state fiscal support for higher education over the last five years. Since 2009, Louisiana has cut funding by 34% while the national average over five years has been a cut of just 4%. [Click here to see the table](#).

Last year 40 states increased funding for higher education. It's time for Louisiana to join those states. Let's hope our legislators join Governor Jindal and the higher education community in supporting this plan.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Dr. Jim Henderson, the popular Chancellor of Bossier Parish Community College, is a finalist for President of Louisiana's Community and Technical College System. Since Henderson arrived at BPCCC in 2009, the college has ranked among the fastest growing in the nation with enrollment doubling during his tenure. [The Shreveport Times, 01.20.14,](#)

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Louisiana Higher Education News

- LSU set a school record in 2013 with a 69% graduation rate. This is not only the highest percentage in the school's history, but it is also the highest in the state among public institutions. Just 20 years ago, the graduation rate at LSU was 44%. ***The Advocate, 01.17.14***
- By the end of the spring semester, LSU in Baton Rouge will have four new softball fields, eight multipurpose fields, 300 new parking spaces, and updated tennis courts. ***The Daily Reveille, 01.16.14***
- LSU Alexandria has a new President. Dr. Daniel Howard comes from Arkansas State in Jonesboro where he served as Provost. LSU President King Alexander announced his selection last week. LSUA also unveiled a new logo just prior to Christmas. ***The Advocate, 01.19.14***



National Higher Education News

- LSU President F. King Alexander was among 100 leaders of colleges, corporations, and foundations who attended a White House summit last week on improving access to college for low income students. Attendees all committed to the President's agenda. ***Inside HigherEd, 1.17.14***
- Following the summit, the White House released an 88 page report outlining how each organization plans to fulfill its promise to better assist low income students. LSU intends to honor its commitment by "initiating the Pelican Promise Project" which will include several new initiatives as well as plans for expansion of those that have already proven successful. ***Commitments to Action on College Opportunity Report***

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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