Dear Johnette,

Chancellors and Presidents of NWLA colleges were center stage last week when the Louisiana Board of Regents held their monthly meeting in Shreveport. The Regents rarely hold their meetings outside their offices in Baton Rouge. The visit gave local college leaders the opportunity to highlight the strengths and accomplishments of their schools over the last year.

The LSU Health Sciences Center hosted the meeting during which the Regents passed a resolution expressing their support for the medical school. Following a lunch, sponsored by the SBBA, the Board toured the Shreveport medical school.

In other news, the Louisiana Community and Technical College Board has its final round of interviews on Wednesday before the members select their new President of the LCTCS System. Our own Bossier Parish Community College Chancellor Jim Henderson is considered a strong contender for the job.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The Louisiana Board of Regents was in Shreveport last week for their monthly meeting. It was the first time they’ve met in Shreveport in more than five years. The Board met on the campus of the LSU Medical School and later toured the facility. Regents also passed a resolution in support of the medical school.  *KTBS-TV3, 01.22.14*

- The Dow Chemical Foundation has given $1 million to Louisiana Tech to be put toward construction of a new integrated science and engineering building. The gift from Dow, a company which has hired more than 100 Tech graduates over the years, has allowed Tech to surpass its fundraising goal of $7 million for the building. *Monroe News-Star, 01.25.14*

- For 22 NWLA adults who have long dreamed of obtaining a doctoral degree, it was back to school this month at LSUS. These students are among the first cohort of students pursuing a Doctorate of Leadership Studies on the Shreveport campus. According to The Shreveport Times, there were more than 240 interested applicants. *The Shreveport Times, 01.23.14.*
Louisiana Higher Education News

• Four finalists are set to interview on Wednesday for President of the LCTCS system. BPCC Chancellor Jim Henderson and Delgado Chancellor Monty Sullivan are both in the running. The board is expected to vote on their choice during their next meeting scheduled for February 12th. KSLA-TV12, 01.23.13

• When Governor Jindal announced last week he would cease cutting funding to higher education, college presidents throughout the state applauded the announcement. LSU Professor and Jindal critic Bob Mann ridiculed their response in his Sunday column in the New Orleans Times Picayune. He wrote, "Louisiana’s higher education leaders resemble my dog. They’ll roll over for a little budgetary kibble from Gov. Bobby Jindal." NOLA.com, 01.26.14

National Higher Education News

• Forbes Magazine recently published a list of the college degrees most likely to land you a job the day you graduate from college. At the top of the list were computer science majors followed by economics, accounting and engineering graduates. Those students with the worst prospects were those majoring in the visual and performing arts. Forbes, 01.23.14

• The Democratic staff of the House Education and the Workforce Committee has released a report on the growing number of contingent, or adjunct faculty at America's colleges. In 1970 adjuncts represented only 20 percent of faculty, but today, they make up 50 percent. "Today being a part-time adjunct at several schools is the way many instructors cobble together full-time employment in higher education," the staff reported. The report also asserts that with low pay and no benefits, many professors are now living "on the edge of poverty." The Just in Time Professor Report, 01.14

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