

Continuing Education

Volume 3 Number 9 - *The Weekly Newsletter of the SBBA* - March 18, 2014



Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"As well as any bills can do, HB 588 and HB 696 will increase the chances of the myriad of higher education governing boards in Louisiana having informed and accomplished members serve as opposed to political hacks with minds set more on

Dear Johnette,

Only three months after the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) took Louisiana College off warning status, SACS is launching an investigation into serious allegations that the school forged and fabricated documents submitted to SACS for accreditation.

According to a former Vice Chancellor of Louisiana College, the school fabricated minutes of meetings, altered an Institutional Effectiveness Report, and altered a Quality Enhancement Plan Report.

The Alexandria Town-Talk reports multiple sources also allege faculty evaluations that never occurred were manufactured for SACS. Former faculty member Tim Whitman told the newspaper, "I hadn't been evaluated for three years."

Michael Johnson, the Chief of Staff at SACS, told the Town-Talk, "Obviously it is something of concern to us, and we will investigate."

Without accreditation, a college cannot receive federal money and its students cannot receive federal financial aid. Loss of accreditation can lead to a school closing its doors.

making sure certain interests get 'theirs' than with higher education. - *LSUS Professor Jeff Sadow in Bayou Buzz.*



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Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Two researchers at Grambling State University have been awarded a \$1.8 million grant from the U.S. Air Force. According to Grambling, the researchers will "develop and characterize structural systems to be used by the U.S. Air Force in propulsion and thermal protection systems." ***India West, 03.16.14***

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Louisiana's Optional Retirement System for Higher Education is considered the weakest in the nation, providing only a 3.8 percent employer match with no contribution to Social Security. State Representative Kevin Pearson has proposed a bill to increase the employer match to more than 6 percent. "How can you really attract somebody from out of state when your employer matches 3.8 percent?" Pearson explained. ***The Advocate, 03.13.14***
- The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) has launched an investigation into whether Louisiana College submitted forged and fraudulent documents as part of their accreditation process. Louisiana College was just removed from a 2-year SACS warning status in December. ***The Advertiser, 03.16.14***
- Southern System President Ronald Mason's "Reform and Renewal Plan" designed to cut costs and boost enrollment is struggling due to opposition from board members. Board Member Darren Mire said, "The plan is not that complicated, yet we keep bringing the same issues up." ***The Advocate, 03.14.14***

National Higher Education News

- The federal government has filed a lawsuit against ITT Technical Services, a for-profit college. The Consumer

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Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) says ITT "exploited its students and pushed them into high cost private student loans that were very likely to end in default." The head of the CFPB also suggested some other for-profit colleges would be targeted next. **[Motley Fool, 03.02.14](#)**

- The College Board's overhaul of the SAT may be due in part to reclaim ground lost since the last overhaul nine years ago. Since 2006, the number of SAT test takers has declined in 29 states. **[The Washington Post, 03.16.14](#)**

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

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