

Continuing Education

Volume 3 Number 18 - *The Weekly Newsletter of the SBBA* - May 20, 2014



Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"At \$250 million, TOPS will cost more next year than the attorney general's office, services for veterans, the insurance regulatory agency and the agriculture department - combined. It will be about half of what Louisiana spends on prisons." - *Melinda Deslatte, Associated Press*



Quick Links

[Colleges and Governing Boards](#)

[Bossier Parish Community College](#)

Dear Johnette,

As more high-skilled, high-wage jobs move to Louisiana, the pressure is on higher education institutions around the state to produce graduates ready to fill them. We are still far from having enough skilled workers, but graduation statistics released this week show we are at least headed in the right direction.

LSU in Baton Rouge, the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, and Bossier Parish Community College all graduated their largest classes in history. At LSU, their entire 2014 class also had 10% more Hispanics, 10% more African Americans, and 3.5% more females than the previous year.

Among the BPCCC graduates were 13 engineering majors, the first engineering cohort to graduate from the community college. These students are all eligible to transfer as juniors to Louisiana Tech or ULL. [**For more on the BPCCC graduates click here.**](#)

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- LSUS Debate Professor Trey Gibson wrote in the Shreveport Times about the value of debate skills. "I believe the vaccine for our educational system is to have our local and state leaders implement competitive debate training in our schools." [**Shreveport Times, 05.18.14**](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Despite overwhelming agreement among legislators that spending on the TOPS program is growing too fast, the legislature once again refused to take any steps to rein in the costs. [**The Associated Press, 05.19.14**](#)
- NOLA.com writer Jarvis DeBerry writes that there is plenty of evidence suggesting changes to TOPS are appropriate. "If 40 percent of freshman TOPS recipients can't maintain the grades to keep the scholarship, that's convincing evidence that the state shouldn't keep throwing good money at average." [**NOLA.com,**](#)

[Centenary College](#)
[LSUHSC Shreveport](#)
[LSU Shreveport](#)
[Louisiana Tech](#)
[Northwestern](#)
[Northwest LA Technical College](#)
[Southern University at Shreveport](#)
[LA Board of Regents](#)
[LCTCS System](#)
[LSU System](#)
[Remington College](#)
[Southern University System](#)
[University of LA System](#)
[SBBA Member Organizations](#)
[African American Chamber](#)
[Biomedical Research Foundation](#)
[Bossier Chamber](#)
[CERT](#)
[Committee of One Hundred](#)
[Manufacturers Managers Council](#)
[Shreveport Chamber](#)
[North Louisiana Economic Partnership](#)

05.16.14

- College faculty in Louisiana who participate in the Optional Retirement Program (ORP) have had the lowest state match in the country, but a bill making its way through the legislature would almost double the match, taking it to 6.2%, which is what private sector employers currently pay to Social Security. **The Advocate, 05.15.14**

National Higher Education News

- The federal government is proposing a "gainful employment" rule which would require schools do a better job of preparing students for employment or risk losing federal student aid. These changes are expected to impact for-profit colleges the most. Although for-profit colleges only enroll about 9% of the college students in this country, their loans account for about half of the defaults. **Huffington Post, 05.14.14**

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

[Forward this email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to jmagner@sbba4he.org by jmagner@sbba4he.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

SBBA | 400 Edwards Street | Shreveport | LA | 71101