

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"The application required to be submitted for consideration of the BOS scholarship does not appear to include adequate information to determine if the applicant meets the determining factors." -

*Legislative Auditor
on LSU Board of
Supervisors
Scholarships*



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Dear Johnette,

During the 2013 legislative session, a law was passed requiring the LSU System to disclose the names of students receiving scholarships from members of the LSU Board of Supervisors. Each of the 15 members of the LSU Board is allowed to give up to 20 tuition-free rides each year to any LSU institution, including the flagship, law and medical schools. The list of current scholarship recipients should be posted on the LSU website later this month.

According to a report released this week by the legislative auditor, the scholarships are to be awarded based on "determining factors of academic excellence, special talent, and financial need." But, the auditor reported there was no "specific criteria", no documentation the factors were met, and inadequate records related to the awards. LSU agreed with the auditor's recommendations in the report and has responded with a plan for corrective action. [Click here to view the full audit report](#)

Unlike most scholarships awarded by outside entities, the Supervisor scholarships, which are described as tuition waivers, reportedly come with no cash award. Therefore, the LSU campuses each have to cover the lost revenue resulting from these waivers from their own budgets. For the 2012-2013 school year, the awards were worth \$1.35 million. Of the 217 recipients, 41 opted to attend LSU Medical School in Shreveport resulting in a loss of more than \$250,000 in tuition revenue. [Read the full story in The Advocate here.](#)

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The Biomedical Research Foundation is the new home for a digital media certificate program that was once housed at LSUS. The Caddo Parish Commission is giving \$500,000 to support the program founded by John Miralles. [KTBS TV-3, 05.30.14](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

- The Legislative Auditor is also reporting that some colleges throughout the state have not been submitting

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"sufficiently reliable" data for their performance assessment under the Grad Act. Michael Boutte with the auditor's office said that overall, however, institutions were "providing more reliable data than they have in past years." Schools must meet Grad Act requirements if they wish to raise tuition the following year. [NOLA.com, 05.27.14](#)

- Governor Jindal has reappointed four members to the LSU Board of Supervisors including Red River Bank CEO Blake Chatelain of Alexandria and businessman James Moore of Monroe. [The Advocate, 06.03.14](#)
- A bill that would delay accountability measures related to the implementation of Common Core may be vetoed by Governor Jindal. In a prepared statement, Jindal said, "We have concerns with the bill." [The Advocate, 06.03.14](#)
- The next Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education will not have to have his salary approved by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, but he will still require Senate confirmation. The Regents pushed to have both of these steps eliminated this session out of concern these approvals would discourage good candidates from applying. [Monroe News-Star, 06.03.14](#)

National Higher Education News

- Increasing student loan debt is having lasting effects on the economy. According to a professor at Penn State, students with debt generally wait longer to purchase a home, avoid lower paying fields such as teaching, and are more reluctant to start a small business requiring they take on more debt. [The New York Times, 06.02.14](#)

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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