Dear Johnette,

The Southern University System may soon follow the lead of the LSU System by consolidating the jobs of President of the System and Chancellor of the Baton Rouge campus.

System President Ronald Mason has not yet been given both titles, but he is pushing the board to consolidate the two roles to save money. The cash-strapped system has reportedly been depleting reserves to cover ongoing expenses in recent years.

The Southern Board met in closed session last Friday, but they did not make a decision. The job of system President was recently vacated when the Southern Board refused to renew Dr. James Llorens’ contract.

Board member Tony Clayton argued on behalf of the consolidation saying, “We do not need people on the third floor and the fourth floor doing the same thing. Our system is top heavy.” [For the rest of the story click here.]

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- UL System President Sandra Woodley has nominated Dr. Cynthia Warrick to serve as Interim President of Grambling State University. Warrick recently served as Interim President of South Carolina State University from 2012-2013. [Shreveport Times, 06.10.14]
- Centenary College President Dr. David Rowe has been chosen to serve as Chairman of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. LAICU represents ten institutions from around the state. [Digital Journal, 06.04.14]

Louisiana Higher Education News

- The Editorial Board of the Lafayette newspaper has now jumped on the bandwagon to open a medical school in their community. State Treasurer John Kennedy has been pushing for a new medical school in Lafayette through opinion pieces he’s authored for newspapers throughout the state. [The Advertiser, 06.04.14]
Governor Jindal has made it clear he wants out of Common Core, telling the Education Department recently to come up with "Plan B." Chas Roemer, head of the BESE board, had this to say about Jindal's latest pronouncement: "He challenged the legislature, and the legislature didn't agree with him. Our children deserve better than Plan B." *The Advocate, 06.08.14*

During the legislative session, there was much discussion about Tulane scholarships, but very little about the LSU scholarships awarded by members of the LSU Board of Supervisors. According to Representative Dee Richard, that may not be the case next session. "Hindsight's 20/20," he said. "I'm going to bring it back next year." *The Advocate, 06.09.14*

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**National Higher Education News**

- President Obama announced plans yesterday to provide student loan relief to an additional $5 million Americans who are currently putting more than 10% of their monthly income toward repayment. *Washington Post, 06.10.14*

For more information on higher education in Northwest Louisiana, please visit our website at [www.sbb4he.org](http://www.sbb4he.org)

Sincerely,

*Johnnette 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. Johnnette Magner at [jmagner@sbb4he.org](mailto:jmagner@sbb4he.org)