Dear Johnette,

A task force addressing sexual assaults on college campuses in Louisiana is looking at conducting an anonymous, online student survey in hopes of getting a more accurate picture of the frequency of assaults at colleges across the state. The group hopes to pass legislation this spring that will lead to more uniformity in policies across the campuses. For more on the task force meeting click here.

Just hours after the task force meeting, Governor Bobby Jindal signed an executive order that will force both the Board of Regents and Crime Victim Reparations Board to take some immediate action regarding sexual assaults. The Regents are tasked with "coordinating uniform policies and best practices" among colleges with respect to reporting of assaults, prevention and treatment. Click here to read the executive order.

These measures come just one day after the U.S. Department of Education announced changes in sexual assault reporting on college campuses. Changes to the Clery Act, which take effect July 1, 2015, will require campuses receiving federal student aid to report disciplinary actions; processes, steps and timelines regarding proceedings; and programs designed to prevent such crimes. For more on the Clery Act changes click here.
Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Louisiana State Senator Robert Adley (R-Benton) and his wife, Claudia, have launched a campaign to provide moral support to the LSU Tigers. In addition to having legislative colleagues write letters of support, the Adleys published a letter in the Shreveport Times. "We are sending this message to you our young players. We value you. We support you. You are our very bright and outstanding future," they wrote. *Shreveport Times, 10.18.14*

- Debra Johnson, the former Executive Director for External Affairs at Grambling, wrote a piece for the Shreveport Times this weekend outlining her concerns for the future of the financially-troubled school. "Are you in or out of the fight for the survival of Grambling State University? You do know this is what it has come to, right?" she wrote. *Shreveport Times, 10.19.14*

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Edwards Barham, the only Louisiana resident to ever serve as Chairman of the Board of Regents, Chairman of the UL System Board, and Chairman of the Community and Technical College System Board, died in a plane crash over the weekend. Barham was from Morehouse parish in North Louisiana. *Shreveport Times, 10.18.14*

- The University of Louisiana System Board will vote on a proposed new timeline this week for the search for a new President of Grambling. The board had hoped to name a new President this month but has extended the search deadline until April so they could find and hire a search firm with experience in HBCU searches. *KTBS.com, 10.16.14*

National Higher Education News
A recent report published by Brookings found that in most respects, college is worth the expense, despite the rising costs. "The bottom line is this: while college may be 50 percent more expensive today than it was 30 years ago, the increase to lifetime earning that a college degree brings is 75 percent higher. In short, the cost of college is growing, but the benefits of college - and by extension, the cost of not going to college - are growing even faster."  

Brookings.edu, 10.16.14

For more information on higher education in Northwest Louisiana, please visit our website at www.sbba4he.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@sbba4he.org