



# Continuing Education

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## Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"Higher education has to be more agile, and higher education has to be more rigorous. We can't just graduate students; we have to graduate students who can compete." - Higher Education Commissioner Dr. Joseph Rallo



## Quick Links

Colleges and Governing Boards

### Dear Johnette,

An Associated Press article entitled "LSU Rolling Full Steam Ahead on Consolidation" outlines the impressive progress made toward the goals outlined in the LSU 2015 Plan. Accomplishments include filling numerous key faculty positions, providing a second year of faculty raises, and giving "life to a plethora of projects that will impact students, staff, and the Baton Rouge community."

Infrastructure improvements include a \$110 million renovation of Patrick Taylor Hall and the unveiling of plans to build a 22,000 square foot dining hall for athletes. [For more on LSU click here.](#)

The Lafayette community is also moving forward on its plans to open a medical school. The school would be affiliated with LSUHSC - New Orleans and offer an intensive three-year program instead of the tradition four-year program. Community leaders hope to have a feasibility study completed in 2015 with a possible medical school to begin operation in 2017. [For more on the proposed Lafayette medical school click here.](#)

## Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- LSUS Interim Provost Dr. John Vassar has been selected to permanently fill the slot on the Shreveport campus. Vassar will oversee all academic programs. [Shreveport Times, 12.28.14](#)

## Louisiana Higher Education News

- The editorial board of the Monroe News-Star wrote last Sunday about the impact the loss of state funding at ULM has had on the Northeast region. In 2009, ULM received \$55.5 million from the state, but by 2014, the appropriation was just \$27.6 million. [Monroe News-](#)

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### **Star, 12.30.14**

- According to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette managed to overstate their revenue from tuition and fees in the 2012-2013 fiscal year by more than \$8 million dollars. University Spokesperson Aaron Martin said the "error was unintentional" and the university has a "new control to prevent such a future error." **Lafayette Advertiser, 12.29.14**
- The First Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that LSU must turn over only the names of the four finalists for school's top job instead of the names of both the finalists and semifinalists. Lori Mince, attorney for The Advocate and Times-Picayune said, "We are glad the court agreed with us in principle - that LSU cannot hire its top administrators in secret. Obviously, we are disappointed that court pulled back a little bit from Judge Clark's ruling." **Baton Rouge Business Report, 12.30.14**

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## National Higher Education News

- According to the Government Accountability Office, public colleges and universities now get more funding from student tuition than they do from states. The report notes that between 2003 and 2012, "state funding decreased by 12% overall while median tuition rose 55% across all public colleges." **National Public Radio, 01.05.15**
- Congressional forecasters are predicting that renewal of the Higher Education Act will not be a priority for this Congress, and the Senate will likely go easier on for-profit colleges. **Chronicle of Higher Education, 01.05.15**

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For more information on higher education in Northwest Louisiana, please visit our website at [www.sbba4he.org](http://www.sbba4he.org)

Sincerely,

**Johnette Wagner, Ph.D., Executive Director**  
**Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher Education**

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*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 Wagner at [jmagner@sbba4he.org](mailto:jmagner@sbba4he.org)*



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