



Continuing Education

Volume 4 Number 3 - *The Weekly Newsletter of the SBBA* - January 20, 2015



Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"It would be devastating. All of the institutions are in danger at this point and that's why we need to begin to devise a plan to avoid all that from happening." - Louisiana Senate President John Alario on the proposed \$300+ million funding cut to higher education for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.



Dear Johnette,

The first number floated was \$200 million. A few days later, the number grew to \$300 million. As of today, legislators are saying state funding of higher education could be cut as much as \$384 million in the upcoming fiscal year that begins this July, and campuses around the state have been asked to plan scenarios around that number. [For more on the projections click here.](#)

Without naming names, Senate President John Alario speculated as many as 16 campuses around the states could be forced to close. Other legislators have offered a few more specifics, stating three of the most vulnerable are in the University of Louisiana System and six are at risk in the Community and Technical College System (LCTCS). It is not hard to believe these scenarios when you consider that the proposed cut is almost equal to the entire budget for LCTCS schools. Senate Education Committee Chairman Conrad Appel said, "It's probably impossible to think we could sustain education as we know it today." [Click here for more information.](#)

The good news - and yes, there is some - is that there is pretty uniform agreement from the legislature to the Governor's office that these cuts are untenable. The only problem is that no one is quite sure where to find the money needed to avert what would be a disaster.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Civil Service employees may be eligible for raises at local higher education institutions, but the odds of it happening appear pretty slim. "If we don't get more money to accommodate those raises then there's no way that we can provide them," said Brooke Rinaudo, Director of Media and PR at LSUS. [Shreveport Times, 01.16.15](#)
- Bossier Parish Community College came in at #11 on the list of "Fastest Growing Community Colleges" in

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America with enrollments between 5000 and 10,000 students. BPCC grew from 4665 students in 2008 to 8695 students in 2014. [***Community College Week, 01.19.15***](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

- The LSU Vice President for Agriculture says the Ag Center would be "decimated" if the proposed cuts for FY2015 were to pass through the legislature. "That means closure of units, closure of offices around the state and a lot of layoffs. I'm heavily invested in people and don't have a lot of paper clips and rubber bands left to cut," Bill Richardson said. [***Baton Rouge Business Report, 01.16.15***](#)
- LSUS Professor Dr. Jeff Sadow writes in *The Hayride* that Louisiana's higher education woes are due in part to the fact that "Louisiana is saddled with too many institutions chasing too few students." He also speculates that deep cuts could lead to financial exigency for some, which would bring an additional set of challenges. [***The Hayride, 01.19.15***](#)

National Higher Education News

- According to a report from the Council on Aid to Education, 4 out of 10 college students graduate without the skills, such as critical thinking, needed to do white-collar jobs. The report was based on results from the Collegiate Learning Assessment Plus test, which was administered at 169 colleges. [***Wall Street Journal, 01.17.15***](#)
- College students may think they are prepared for the workforce, but employers disagree. In a study released this week by the American Association of Colleges and Universities, fewer than 3 in 10 employers said recent graduates had adequate communication and critical thinking skills. [***Inside Higher Ed, 01.20.15***](#)

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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