



Continuing Education

Volume 4 Number 6 - *The Weekly Newsletter of the SBBA* - February 11, 2015



Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"Let me put it in perspective: we're looking at a proposed budget cut of \$420 million, and we have right now a higher education budget of about \$720 million. That would basically gut higher education." - Higher Education Commissioner Dr. Joseph Rallo



Quick Links

Dear Johnette,

Higher education leaders say they are now expecting Governor Bobby Jindal's executive budget proposal, to be unveiled February 27, to contain a cut as high as \$420 million to higher education for the upcoming fiscal year. This would be on top of \$700 million in cuts in recent years. Louisiana already has the dubious distinction of leading the nation in state funding cuts to higher education since 2008.

At home, Jindal and his staff are acknowledging the cuts are deep and reportedly exploring ways to mitigate the pain, although they will only consider "revenue neutral" measures. Possibilities include not refunding money for tax credits above a tax liability and allowing schools to raise fees which would not impact TOPS. [For more on the different proposals click here.](#)

On the national stage, it's been a rough week for Jindal as he tries to tout what he's done for higher education during his tenure as Governor. Jindal suffered an embarrassing moment yesterday morning on MSNBC when he told host Joe Scarborough that the cost of attending LSU, including fees and housing, is "certainly well under \$10,000." The actual cost is \$20,564 a year. [For more on the story click here.](#)

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The search firm hired to find a new President of Grambling State University has basically told the U.L. System that it can't find any acceptable candidates willing to apply. In a letter to the UL System President the Hollins Group wrote, "Current and potential candidates tell us they are not interested in going to an institution where they may be asked to "roll it up" basically upon arrival." [UL Website, 02.04.15](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

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- When Governor Bobby Jindal told a national reporter that Louisiana's higher education budget was higher today than when he took office, a Washington Post team devoted to "fact checking" looked into the claim. In today's Post he was given "3 Pinocchios" which means they found "a significant factual error and/or obvious contradiction." ***Washington Post, 02.11.15***
- LSU President King Alexander asked each of the schools in the LSU System to outline what they would be forced to do next year if they received a 35% to 40% cut in state funding. The system-wide results were a loss of 1433 faculty and staff and 1572 courses. Six of the schools would also declare financial exigency, which is tantamount to bankruptcy for a college. ***Associated Press, 02.05.14***
- If the proposed cuts for the Southern University System are imposed, the system will go from \$51 million in funding this year to \$17 million next fiscal year. The cut is actually larger than the general operating budget of the Law Center, Ag Center, SUNO and SUSLA combined. "If the proposed cuts actually happen, it is difficult to see how the Southern System, as we know it, could continue to exist," said Southern President Ronald Mason. ***NOLA.com, 02.11.15***
- State Treasurer John Kennedy shares the public's concern that proposed cuts to higher education would be devastating and that the legislature must find solutions. "We need to act now. We don't want future generations visiting the ruins of Louisiana's great universities," he wrote in The Advocate. ***The Advocate, 02.10.15***

National Higher Education News

- President Obama's plan to create a college scorecard that would also siphon dollars away from poor performing schools is running into more political obstacles, leading some to believe the portion affecting federal aid might eventually be abandoned. ***Wall Street Journal, 02.10.15***

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***

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