Dear Johnette,

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation has its sights set on a health district that it is patterning after Texas Medical Center in Houston. The district would also include a medical school.

In a presentation last week, BRAF Executive VP John Spain said, "It is time for a full-blown medical school here, but not at the expense of New Orleans and Shreveport. This is not just a four-year medical school we are talking about here. It's so much more."

Spain says the medical school would specialize in joint degree programs, so students could earn a second degree in areas such as law, business and engineering.

Spain puts the timeline for parts of the health district at three to five years but acknowledges it will take much longer than that before Baton Rouge has a medical school. To read more on the plan for the health district, click here.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Louisiana Tech has done it again! Tech landed the top spot in the state for Payscale.com's ranking of schools according to return on investment. Tech also ranked #2 in the nation for in-state engineering majors living on campus. Shreveport Times, 03.09.15

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Only about one third of the $40 million in WISE funds awarded last year has actually made it to college campuses. That's because much of the money comes from a federal hurricane recovery fund with major restrictions. UL System President Sandra Woodley told The Advocate, "We're struggling a little bit with the source of funds. We don't even know if the plans we put
National Higher Education News

- The news that Sweet Briar College in Virginia is closing its doors forever in August has left many questioning the future of other all-female private colleges. Pamela Fox, the President of neighboring Mary Baldwin College, says Sweet Briar's closure should not be feared as the beginning of a slew of closures. **Washington Post, 03.06.15**

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)