

Continuing Education

Volume 5 Number 3- *The Weekly Newsletter of the SBBA* - January 20, 2016



Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"He wants to be seen as the Education Governor."
- Board of Regents Chairman Richard Lipsey on Governor John Bel Edwards.



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Greetings!

The Louisiana Board of Regents is saying they are ready to trash the Grad Act because it is no longer doing what it was meant to do - which was reward performance. "There's no longer a need for the Grad Act," said Higher Education Commissioner Joe Rallo. "It became punitive and that was never the intent."

The Grad Act was passed in 2010 as an incentive program that would allow individual schools to raise tuition if they met graduation and retention benchmarks, but because of the massive cuts in state funding of higher education in recent years, the Grad Act has hurt schools by limiting critical funds.

Over the next several weeks the Regents are expected to unveil a new formula funding model that will also include performance metrics but not be punitive. The new plan is not expected to require legislative approval. ***For more on the plan click here.***

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Six semi-finalists have been named to replace Ray Belton as head of the SUSLA campus. Belton left the post last year to head up the Southern System. All candidates currently reside outside the Shreveport-Bossier area. ***Diverse Education, 01.21.16***
- Shreveport-Bossier business leaders recently funded an effort on Northwestern's Shreveport campus to enhance student safety by installing more lighting and security cameras. "In this day and age, you want to keep your students safe," said Committee of 100 President Patrick Harrison. "We were glad we could help." ***KTAL-TV6, 01.20.16***

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Higher Education leaders were invited to the Governor's office this week and asked to support the Governor's plans for plugging the \$1.9 billion deficit expected next fiscal year. Edwards says without tax increases and other measures, higher education could suffer more cuts. ***Shreveport Times, 01.21.16***
- An audit of the ULM Foundation has forced a restatement of

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net assets to reflect a decrease of \$160,000. Auditors blamed the errors on staff lacking a familiarity with not-for-profit accounting. The auditors also stated that all contributions and monies were accounted for. ***Monroe News-Star, 01.20.16***

National Higher Education News

- The State of Texas has a problem. It has quickly grown its number of medical schools and students, but it has not adequately funded enough residency programs to keep the students in the state. "We need to be thoughtful about the development of more medical schools as opposed to just the ambitions of a university to have a medical school for whatever prestige that brings them," said Texas State Rep. John Zerwas. ***Texas Tribune, 01.21.16***
- According to a recent report from the Community College Research Center, approximately 30% of Louisiana students who start at a community college will eventually transfer and graduate with a bachelor's degree. The national average is 42%. ***Community College Research Center, 01.16***

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