

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"We're gonna come back. We're gonna raise more revenue."
- Governor John Bel Edwards on his plans to call a second special session.



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Greetings!

Students wondering if they will get TOPS next year will have to wait a good bit longer until they get their answer. Normally, letters go out in June announcing the award to students who meet the criteria, but this year they are expected to receive a letter stating their eligibility has not yet been determined. Governor Edwards' initial proposed budget for next year only included 20% of the funding needed for TOPS. A revised budget proposal is expected sometime next week. ***[For more on the TOPS shortfall click here.](#)***

State legislators are looking at ways to control TOPS spending and one proposal that now appears dead on arrival is to limit TOPS dollars only to public schools. The author of the bill, Senator Blade Morrish, said he is only sponsoring the bill to help people realize that cutting off private schools will not save money. "There's a lot of misinformation and old information out there. Some bills I have filed, including this one, are to address this misinformation." ***[For more on this story click here.](#)***

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The new Chancellor of Southern University Shreveport arrived on campus Monday, and already, he is out in the community learning more about workforce needs. "I want to make sure we're an asset to the community," he said. Dr. Rodney Ellis was formerly Chancellor of Central Louisiana Technical Community College. ***[Shreveport Times, 04.06.16](#)***
- The Bossier Parish Community College Debate Team has finished in the final four among community colleges at the 2016 International Public Debate Association National Championship Tournament. The BPCC team regularly ranks in the top tier. ***[Minden Press-Herald, 04.06.16](#)***
- LSUS has hired a new Dean for the College of Business, Education, and Human Development. Dr. Nancy Albers-Miller will officially join the faculty in July. "I look forward to a dynamic future of continuous innovation and growth," she said. ***[LSUS Website, 04.05.16](#)***

Louisiana Higher Education News

- The Advocate Editorial Board has come out in favor of

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- The Advocate Editorial Board has come out in favor of reducing the number of higher education boards from five to a single board. The editorial board wrote, "The opposition to board consolidation is largely based on fear. Other campuses fear that LSU in Baton Rouge would rule the roost; LSU boosters fear the flagship would be hobbled by its jealous fellows." ***The Advocate, 04.05.16***
- When asked to come up with some bold ideas during a legislative hearing, LSU leadership suggested privatization. LSUHSC - New Orleans Chancellor Larry Hollier said he gives the state \$900,000 more each year than he receives because of unfunded mandates. "I would like to move toward privatization," Hollier said. "I think I could do it better if I had more freedom." ***NOLA.com, 04.06.16***

National Higher Education News

- As part of an effort to better understand the network behind student visa fraud, the federal government set up a sting operation using a phony university called the University of Northern New Jersey. The operation resulted in the arrest this week of 21 people who served as brokers for students in China and India. The brokers were aware that the university would not have real classes, but they did not know the school was set up by the Office of Homeland Security. ***The New York Times, 04.05.16***

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*