

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"You can still receive a quality education close to home for significantly less than other state universities. The University of New Orleans is an affordable option for your future success." - *Recruiting email sent to incoming freshmen at LSU shortly after TOPS cuts were announced.*

Greetings!

Despite a sizeable budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal year - one that forced spending cuts to a variety of state services - higher education was fully-funded for FY 2016-2017 at the same level as the current year. This was welcome news for the higher education community, which suffered crippling cuts under the Jindal administration.

The popular TOPS program, however, was only partially funded. This means TOPS recipients will, for the first time ever since the program began, pay part of their tuition.

But the big surprise from the special session was the lack of funding for Shreveport's medical school. LSUHSC - Shreveport requested an additional \$31 million, but the school only received \$10 million in state money.

In anticipation a major funding shortfall might occur, LSU System leadership began working months ago to craft a new partnership model for the Shreveport medical school which could generate more local revenue as early as 2017. This new model is much like the New Orleans Medical School model, which partners with multiple hospitals in the region.

At the LSU Board of Supervisors meeting on Friday, LSU President King Alexander shared that he had letters of intent for partnerships with four additional hospitals in North Louisiana. Those hospitals are Christus Schumpert, Willis-Knighton, St. Francis, and Rapides Medical Center.



Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Grambling President Dr. Willie Larkin resigned last week at a meeting of the University of Louisiana Board of Supervisors. Larkin's resignation comes less than a year after he was hired and is effective June 30. [*Monroe News-Star, 06.23.16*](#)
- The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has put Centenary College on probation for one year for not meeting two standards related to finances. Meanwhile, Centenary remains accredited and is accepting students for the fall. [*Shreveport Times, 06.24.16*](#)
- The National Science Foundation has awarded a \$1 million grant to Louisiana Tech. The money will be used to support

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a summer bridge program designed to improve retention of sophomore students majoring in mechanical, biomedical and civil engineering. ***Myarklamiss, 06.22.16***

- A Centenary alumnus has donated \$2 million from his estate to Centenary College. The gift, which is from anonymous donor, will support operations at the local school. ***Shreveport Times, 06.20.16***

Louisiana Higher Education News

- The TOPS program will see its first cut ever this year although students likely won't feel it until the second semester. The Louisiana Legislature only provided 70% of the funding needed to fully cover the popular scholarship, but they front-loaded the money so no cuts will be seen this fall. Governor Edwards has not yet signed the legislation, and there is some speculation he may veto it. ***The Advocate, 06.24.16***
- LSU and Southern University will soon be in the marijuana-growing business. Their agricultural centers were chosen by the Louisiana Legislature to grow marijuana for medicinal purposes. According to LSU Vice President Bill Richardson, all plants will be bar coded and inventoried. "There will be no shrinkage. We will account for every single thing that comes out of there." ***The Advocate, 06.24.16***

National Higher Education News

- The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last week that the race-conscious admissions policies used by the University of Texas are legal and do not violate the Equal Protection Clause. Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote, "Considerable deference is owed to a university in defining those intangible characteristics, like student body diversity, that are central to its identity and educational mission." ***The Hechinger Report, 06.23.16***
- The U.S. workforce participation rate among men age 25 to 54 has been falling for decades, but recently, that fall has accelerated. According to the Council for Economic Advisors, the primary reason is the erosion of demand for low-skilled workers. Too many men are not qualified for the jobs available today. ***Washington Post, 06.20.16***

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