

Continuing Education

Volume 5 Number 34 - *The Weekly Newsletter of the SBBA* - October 31, 2016



Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"CABL and other long time supporters of higher education, including business leaders, are among the supporters of Amendment 2. We join with them in encouraging voters to approve it." -
*Editorial Board,
The Advocate*

Colleges and Universities throughout Louisiana have been told to prepare for a 7 to 10% mid-year cut in their state general fund allocation this year. The cuts are part of the Edwards's administration plan to plug a \$313 million deficit from the previous fiscal year. The shortfall is reportedly due to low corporate and sales tax collections. ***For more on the budget deficit click here.***

While preparing for mid-year cuts in state funds, Louisiana's colleges are also preparing for enrollment declines this spring due to significant cuts in the TOPS program. TOPS payments will be cut by up to 58% this spring. Different schools are employing various strategies to try to retain these students, with many setting aside funds for TOPS students who also are considered lower income, but schools with high numbers of TOPS students are bracing for a hit.

"I don't know what the outcome will be, whether students take time off or stop," said LSU President King Alexander. "We think funding TOPS at 80% would not deter most students from coming back. We think funding at 40% would."

At this time, there is no indication the state will be putting additional money toward the TOPS program by January 2017. ***Click here for more on the TOPS cut.***



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Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Centenary College has welcomed two new members to its Board of Trustees. Local businessman and Committee of One Hundred President Ross Barrett is joining the Board along with Imad K. Anbouba of Dallas. ***Centenary.edu, 10.30.16***
- Grambling State University is now partnering with a mobile app called Scholly that will allow their students to search for scholarships and other grant opportunities at no charge. "Scholly equips students with the appropriate tools to find, get matched with, and apply for scholarships to fund their education," said Scholly Executive David Hunt. ***Monroe News-Star, 10.24.16***

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Although the renegotiated hospital deals between the state

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- Although the renegotiated hospital deals between the state and LSU private partner hospitals were purportedly supposed to reduce state costs, the state announced last week it is increasing the payments this year by \$135 million. The Governor's office is reporting a portion of the money is also earmarked for LSU's two medical schools. ***Greater Baton Rouge Business Report***
- The Advocate is reporting today that LSU is the only school in the SEC that actually raises more dollars for athletics than academics. According to LSU President King Alexander, the fundraising disparity is because LSU has not worked as hard at academic fundraising until recently. "We just need to ramp up on the academic side," he said. ***The Advocate, 10.31.16***
- The search for a new chancellor at SUNO was scrapped on Friday by the Southern System Board after only two candidates were left to advance. System President Ray Belton has given few details on why he rejected the candidates and has not yet shared plans on when he expects to reopen the search. ***NOLA.com, 10.26.16***
- The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has announced they are cutting out-of-state fees for online classes by more than half. The cuts begin in the spring of 2017. Director of Distance Learning Luke Dowden said, "We are trying to be more responsive to working adults and those who want a UL Lafayette degree but are unable to relocate." ***KLFY-TV, 10.21.16***

National Higher Education News

- Although college tuition increases appear to have slowed down in recent years, the College Board is reporting that the net cost of tuition and fees have risen considerably and are outpacing both financial aid and increases in family incomes. "These increases...raise concern about ensuring educational opportunities for low and moderate-income students," said the report's co-author Jenifer Ma. ***Washington Post, 10.27.16***

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*