

## Continuing Education

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### Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"If we were to take endowment money that was supposed to go to scholarships for students and stick it in the operational fund, we'd never raise another scholarship dollar. That's what many of our legislators who bring that up don't understand."  
*LSU President F. King Alexander*



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The Louisiana House of Representatives reconvenes on Friday morning to decide how to plug a \$304 million state deficit for the current fiscal year. The Governor's plan would withdraw \$120 million from the Rainy Day fund and avoid cuts to higher education. Alternative plans moving through the legislature take either less or nothing from the Rainy Day Fund and cut higher education and healthcare. Higher education leaders are lobbying hard to keep cuts at bay, especially because they would all have to be made in the final quarter of the fiscal year.

Meantime, a national study released last week shows that Louisiana is bucking the national trend when it comes to funding of higher education. Last year, 39 states increased spending on higher education an average of 3.4% - but not Louisiana. The Chronicle of Higher Education named Louisiana as one of three states with the largest cuts to higher education in 2016. [\*Chronicle of Higher Education, 02.06.17\*](#)

### Local Higher Education News

- Acting NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio has told the Natchitoches Parish Journal that he is throwing his hat in the ring for the permanent President's job. Maggio has worked at Northwestern for 29 years and assumed his temporary job in January when NSU President Jim Henderson was hired to run the UL System. [\*Natchitoches Parish Journal, 02.09.17\*](#)
- Enrollment is up this spring at Northwestern by 500 students, and it is the highest spring term enrollment since 2006. Northwestern is also one of the few Louisiana colleges that absorbed cuts to TOPS this semester and did not require students cover the 60% cut in TOPS funding by the state. [\*NSU Website, 02.09.17\*](#)

### Louisiana Higher Education News

- Some Louisiana legislators would like to see Louisiana's colleges use some of their endowment dollars to help fund operations, something college leaders oppose. UL System President Jim Henderson defends how the dollars are currently used: "Across the board, university-affiliated foundations are doing more than ever before in terms of

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scholarships for students, in terms of support for faculty." ***Acadiana Advocate, 02.06.17***

- In an effort to attract students with family ties to Louisiana, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) is waiving out-of-state tuition costs to children of Louisiana college graduates currently living in another state. This waiver represents a savings of almost \$13,728. ***Nola.com, 02.16.17***
- Grambling State University has launched a campaign to bring back its undergraduate nursing program. The school is asking supporters to send letters endorsing the reinstatement to the UL System. The program was terminated in 2015 when the Louisiana State Board of Nursing pulled its accreditation. ***KNOE-TV, 02.16.17***

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## National Higher Education News

- Women make up half of those working in administration in higher education, but according to Insider HigherEd, they earn just 80 cents on the dollar when compared to men. Since 2001, the gender pay gap has narrowed by only three cents. ***Inside HigherEd, 02.16.17***

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For more information on higher education in Northwest Louisiana, please visit our website at [www.sbba4he.org](http://www.sbba4he.org)

Sincerely,

***Johnette Magner, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher Education***

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*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](mailto:jmagner@sbba4he.org)*