

# Continuing Education

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## Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"Things continue to pile up and eventually you have to abandon a building. We're past the Band-Aid stage." - ULS President Jim Henderson on the poor state of some of the buildings on Louisiana college campuses due to deferred maintenance.



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Major changes are ahead for some of the schools in the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. The LCTCS Board voted today on a realignment plan that will affect eight campuses across the state. The move is expected to save the system approximately \$10 million next year, which is the amount the system pulled from reserves to make up for a funding deficit this fiscal year.

In Northwest Louisiana, two campuses currently under the Northwest Louisiana Technical College umbrella, NWLTC-Natchitoches and NWLTC-Sabine Valley, will become part of Central Louisiana Community Technical College.

LCTCS President Monty Sullivan said these changes were needed to keep some of the schools viable. "We do have campuses that quite frankly, are in jeopardy. Our ability to serve students is at stake when they don't have financial backing. We're going to move some to be under the purview of ones that do." *[Shreveport Times, 03.08.17](#)*

## Local Higher Education News

- Grambling President Rick Gallot says the University is working on plans to replace the A.C. Lewis Library, which must be closed due to environmental issues. "We can no longer accept that what we have is reasonable and good enough," said Gallot. "We can do this with reasonable financial costs if we do it right." *[Monroe News-Star, 03.08.17](#)*
- Dr. Ellen Smiley, who has been serving as Interim Provost at Grambling since August, has been unanimously chosen by a national search committee to permanently fill the slot. "I chose Smiley not only for her strong academic background, but because she has a GSU commitment and heart," said GSU President Rick Gallot. *[Monroe News-Star, 03.08.17](#)*

## Louisiana Higher Education News

- As part of their strategy to absorb budget cuts for the last decade, colleges and universities around the state have deferred maintenance, and many buildings are showing serious signs of neglect. The total bill for the deferred

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maintenance is estimated to be \$1.7 billion. "When you are worried about keeping the doors open, you can sometimes overlook a roof that sprung a leak," said UL System President Dr. Jim Henderson. ***Lafayette Advertiser, 03.02.17***

- The skills gap in Louisiana is rapidly growing with employers having a difficult time finding applicants with the skills they need. In this opinion piece in the Shreveport Times, the SBBA outlines why funding TOPS and Go Grants are necessary to help address this problem. ***Shreveport Times, 03.02.17***

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## National Higher Education News

- U.S. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan recently voiced support for a major change to the Pell Grant program. Since 2011, Pell Grants have not covered coursework taken during the summer. "I like year-round Pell. That makes a lot of sense," said Ryan. ***The Hechinger Report, 03.03.17***
- The University System of Georgia has announced plans to merge two more universities in the state by 2018. Armstrong State University and Georgia Southern University will merge under the Georgia Southern name. This is the 5th round of mergers since 2012 as part of an effort to save money. ***The Chronicle of Higher Education, 03.07.17***

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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)*