

T CONVERSATIONS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lawmakers need to fund our medical school

When the legislative session began in April, the SBBA asked our legislators to find funds to plug the 82 percent cut in state funding of higher education that was proposed in the Executive Budget. We knew this cut would decimate our institutions in NWLA, driving many into bankruptcy and making most, if not all, incapable of training the workforce our employers need for the jobs of the future.

Our legislators have met the challenge thus far, prioritizing higher education as funds become available. We thank them for addressing this daunting challenge and casting what are often difficult votes in the name of saving our schools. But there is still more work to be done.

While our two and four-year colleges appear to be on track to receive close to the same amount of state funding they received last year, our LSU Medical School in Shreveport is not even close — the school needs an additional \$51 million that is not currently in the budget.

In these final weeks of the session, we hope our legislators will make funding LSUHSC-Shreveport their top priority. This money is needed to cover daily operating expenses. Let's not put the future of our medical school at risk.

— **CARTER ROGERS**

vice chairman, Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher Education, Shreveport