

## UL Board grants approval to develop programs

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### Zoom

Dr. Phillip Rozeman, a Shreveport cardiologist with the multi-state Willis Knighton Group, told the University of Louisiana Board of Supervisors at a special meeting that the role of nurse practitioner is only going to expand as medical treatment demands increase. / File photo

BATON ROUGE – Two state universities received permission Monday to take the first real steps toward developing new doctoral programs to address Louisiana industry needs and a third received approval to begin a program initiated by a home-grown corporation.

For Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, it's to meet a rising need for nurse practitioners in the Shreveport area.

For the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, it's developing a new type of geoscientist to aid in the pursuit of underground energy sources to meet the nation's fuel needs.

“The role of the nurse practitioner is only going to expand” as medical treatment demands increase, Dr. Phillip Rozeman, a Shreveport cardiologist with the multi-state Willis Knighton Group told the University of Louisiana Board of Supervisors at a special meeting.

Rozeman and Johnette McCrery Magner, head of the Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher Education, said they strongly support NSU President Randy Webb's intention to develop a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program in the College of Nursing and Allied Health, based in Shreveport.

The ULL Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Geosciences would produce graduates who would essentially focus on energy and the environment. It would involve both the Department of Physics and ULL's School of Geosciences departments.

“This is bridging the gap between fundamental and applied research,” said university President Joseph Savoie.

The letters of intent approved Monday are the first step in a lengthy process of developing a doctorate degree program. Final approval of degree programs comes through the Board of Regents.

At the University of Louisiana in Monroe, a post-graduate certificate in information technology designed by CenturyTel will be offered. It's designed to meet specific needs of Monroe-based CenturyTel and other phone providers.