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Continuing Education

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College Funding in Context Study

A recent study from Demos concluded Louisiana doesn't fund higher education because it isn't valued or necessary for our low-skilled economy.

Dear Johnette,

Two reports cited in this week's clips reveal just how out-of-step we are with other states in funding higher education. For years we've been told most states were slashing higher ed budgets, too. Well, that's not true anymore. According to a study in the Chronicle of Higher Education, most states have determined they can't continue starving their colleges and 2013 higher ed funding is now rebounding. Louisiana ranks third in states cutting the most between 2008-2011 and is expected to cut funding another 5% this year.

A second study entitled "College Funding in Context" includes Louisiana as a case study. These researchers concluded that since Louisiana's economy relies on low-skilled jobs, our people and politicians don't see the need to fund higher education. The study also notes Louisiana leads the nation as a top brain drain state.

Perhaps it is time to revisit how we fund higher ed.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Biomedical Research Foundation President and CEO Jack Sharp has announced he intends to retire this spring. Jack has served as head of the Biomed for the last 17 years. *Biomed Website, 01.18.13*
- LSU students and faculty continue to lobby around the state for representation on the LSU Transition Team. Here's what one local student wrote to the Shreveport Times. *The Times, 01.22.13*



Quick Links

[Colleges and Governing Boards](#)

[Bossier Parish Community College](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Tulane's Business School has suffered a black eye after discovering an employee sent bogus numbers to U.S.

Centenary College
 LSUHSC Shreveport
 LSU Shreveport
 Louisiana Tech
 Northwestern
 Northwest LA
 Technical College
 Southern University at
 Shreveport
 LA Board of Regents
 LCTCS System
 LSU System
 Southern University
 System
 University of LA
 System
**SBBA Member
 Organizations**
 African American
 Chamber
 Biomedical Research
 Foundation
 Bossier Chamber
 CERT
 Committee of One
 Hundred
 Manufacturers
 Managers Council
 Shreveport Chamber

News & World Report. When Dean Ira Solomon discovered the fraud, he notified the publication. "This is not an issue about rankings but about reputation," Solomon said. [NOLA.com, 01.16.13](#)



- A new study reveals just how problematic funding for higher education is in Louisiana. According to the study by Demos, a public policy center, "Louisiana struggles to develop a culture that supports investment in higher education and the infrastructure to attract and generate jobs for more educated workers. Louisiana ranks among the highest states in losing educated workers, illustrating that the state has difficulty in gaining traction toward a more diverse, knowledge-based economy." [The Advocate, 01.21.13](#)
- The retired editor of the Lake Charles American Press shares his concerns about the jobs moving to the area. "Unfortunately there is some question about whether the citizens who live in this state will be able to take full advantage of the thousands of job opportunities opening up..." [Lake Charles American Press, 01.17.13](#)
- The LSU Reveille editorial board doesn't mince words in its latest editorial addressing the LSU reorganization. "The brass at the LSU System must think the students at the University are stupid," they wrote. [LSU Reveille, 01.17.13](#)

National Higher Education News

- State appropriations for higher ed have been dropping nationwide since 2008 until this most recent year, with state spending rebounding in most states. Louisiana is one of the unfortunate states expected to continue the nosedive after already ranking third in the nation in cuts since 2008. Only New Hampshire and Arizona have cut a higher percentage of higher education funding. [The Chronicle of Higher Education, 1.21.13](#)
- Spending per student may have been dropping in recent years, but spending per athlete is quite generous, especially at schools in the Southeast Conference. [The Advocate, 01.22.13](#)

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

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