



Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"Many students at these colleges will no doubt take out loans, graduate, and get good jobs.

But the high default rates and lower graduation rates suggest that many will not." -

Andrew Gillen, research director for Education Sector, on the 514 schools he identified in a study where loan default rates exceed graduation rates.

Dear Johnette,

Education Sector has released a study entitled "In Debt and in the Dark" that identifies more than 500 colleges where student loan default rates exceed graduation rates. USA Today has created a shortened list based on the study, including only those schools where at least 30% of students take out loans. USA Today has also published the complete list online, calling the schools "Red Flag" schools.

There are 265 schools on USA Today's list, and six of them are in Louisiana. The list includes schools in the LSU, Southern, and Community and Technical College systems. To view the complete list, [click here](#).

If you are concerned about the future of higher education in Louisiana, you won't want to miss an upcoming program entitled a "2013 Legislative Session Summary." This program will take an in-depth look at legislation impacting higher education. The program will be July 25th from 10 to noon at BPCC and is being sponsored by the Louisiana Committee of 100, NWLA Committee of 100, SBBA, and Bossier Parish Community College. To view the invitation, [click here](#).

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- President Dan Reneau officially handed over his office keys last Friday to Les Guice, the new President of Louisiana Tech. Reneau served as Tech's President for 26 years. "I can't think of anyone else I would rather pass this key along to than Dr. Les Guice. There's simply not a better man for the job," said Reneau. [Shreveport Times, 06.28.13](#)
- Dr. Stan Napper, the Dean of Tech's College of Engineering, is now replacing Dr. Guice as VP for Research and Development. Napper holds the Thigpen Professorship in Biomedical Engineering and has been with Tech for 30 years. [Monroe News-Star, 06.26.13](#)
- Northwestern has joined colleges and universities around the country partnering with StraighterLine, a company



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that makes transferring online credits easier for students. Provost Lisa Abney said, "This is another way to help students earn their degrees more quickly and a way for us to enroll students who normally wouldn't know about us." ***KMSS TV33, 06.27.13***

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Higher Education Commissioner Jim Purcell is warning that the funding plan for higher education this year could create cash flow problems for the state's schools. He explains, "What we want is seed money so institutions can draw money as they normally would with general fund money." Commissioner of Administration Kristy Nichols disagrees there is a problem. "It's unusual that you would contemplate a cash flow issue when you have sufficient funds," she responded. ***The Advocate, 07.01.13***
- The Southern University Board of Supervisors has voted to reorganize the Baton Rouge campus in an effort to save money. The school is going from nine academic colleges down to six, 39 academic chairs to 21, and eliminating two dozen low-completer programs. ***The Advocate, 06.30.13***
- The Louisiana Workforce Commission is predicting \$60 billion in plant construction and expansion over the next several years and looking to the state's two year colleges to largely train and deliver the workforce. ***The Advocate, 07.01.13***



National Higher Education News

- Education Sector, a non-profit, non-partisan education policy think tank, has identified 514 schools where loan default rates exceed graduation rates. Although there is much justifiable criticism of how the nation calculates graduation rates, because the rates do not count transfer students to a college who graduate, making the list of "Red Flag" schools should concern those listed. Ed Sector's Andrew Gillen explains, "Nevertheless, the two data sets are the federal government's best estimate for identifying and holding accountable schools that are eligible to receive federal student aid." Six Louisiana public colleges made the list. ***USA Today, 07.02.13***
- The interest rate for the popular subsidized Stafford Student loan doubled on Monday, increasing from 3.4% to 6.8%. Members of Congress are saying, however, they hope to address the issue when they return from their 4th of July break. ***Monroe News-Star, 07.02.13***
- If you graduated from Radford College in Virginia this

spring, you can expect a second diploma in the mail, with this one correctly spelling "Virginia." The original diplomas had "Virgina" on them. Joe Carpenter, Radford's Chief Communications Officer, said, "Radford University regrets any inconvenience this error may have caused our alumni and will be working to correct these errors in a timely manner." The fall diplomas also contained the misspelling, but the error was not brought to the school's attention until last week. [ABC News, 06.26.13](#)

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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