

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"If education is a priority in our state, the level of investment must reflect that. There have been numerous task forces, numerous study groups whose recommendations have suggested rational and appropriate allocation of funding on higher education. Most of these recommendations have never moved forward through the legislative process." -

*Regents Chairman
Bubba Rasberry in
speech given last
week to the Baton
Rouge Rotary Club.*

Dear Johnette,

It was a gutsy move, but it was also the right thing to do. In Sunday's Shreveport Times, Centenary College President David Rowe acknowledged that Centenary's enrollment has declined from 776 a year ago to 650 this year. While that is clearly not good news, the opinion piece also gave Rowe a platform to talk about the tough decisions Centenary leadership has made in recent years, decisions that have allowed the school to remain fiscally stable, even in years such as this one with smaller enrollments.

Forbes Magazine recently gave Centenary a grade of "A" for its fiscal health, a rating few schools in the country received. For example, Tulane University and Loyola both received a grade of "B".

Rowe was wise to recognize that even though Centenary is a private college, it behooves the school to be transparent and forthright when it comes to enrollment, and by acknowledging the challenges ahead for Centenary this year, the community, which cares deeply about this college, can now rally around the school.

Although Rowe did not state this, insiders expect enrollment to stabilize or even improve at Centenary next year.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Centenary College of Louisiana President David Rowe writes in Sunday's Shreveport Times about the challenges the school has weathered over the last few years, including a decline in enrollment this year. Still, the school is financially strong. "Financial sustainability is a discipline, not a destination," he explained.
Shreveport Times, 08.24.13
- The University of Louisiana Board of Supervisors has named retired Louisiana Tech President Dan Reneau as President Emeritus of Louisiana Tech. Reneau served as the school's President for 26 years. *Monroe News-Star,*



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Louisiana Higher Education News



- In a speech before the Baton Rouge Rotary Club, Regents Chairman Bubba Raspberry addressed the declining state funding for higher education with this admonition: "If higher education is a priority in our state, the level of investment must reflect that." Jindal staffer Kyle Plotkin retorted with, "Bubba is going to look at these decisions and focus solely on the affects on higher ed but there are a lot more issues at stake for Louisianians, Bubba probably does not like that." [NOLA.com, 08.22.13](#)
- State Senator Robert Adley heralds LCTCS President Dr. Joe May as the true "architect" of Senate Bill 204, which provides for construction funds for community and technical colleges around the state. "I have received numerous awards and honors across the state for my work to gain legislative approval for Senate Bill 204...and while I appreciate the recognition, the real kudos go to Dr. Joe May." [Monroe News-Star, 08.23.13](#)
- Former LSUS Faculty Senate President Kevin Cope, a frequent critic of the LSU Board of Supervisors, pummels the Board this week for failing to disclose the names of the finalists for LSU President. "By suggesting that candidates for public posts fear media exposure, the board has suggested that cowardice and anxiety are key ingredients of Louisiana leadership." [The Advocate, 08.20.13](#)

National Higher Education News

- Seniors at 200 colleges and universities next year will take an SAT-styled exit exam designed to compare and score students in terms of readiness for the workplace. The test was created by the Council for Aid to Education and is scored the same as the SAT. The University of Texas at Austin is among the schools that will be participating. [The Wall Street Journal, 08.26.13](#)
- President Barack Obama has joined the group questioning whether law schools need to be just 2-year programs instead of the standard 3 years. "The third year they'd be better off clerking or practicing in a firm, even if they weren't getting paid that much," said President Obama. [The Wall Street Journal, 08.26.13](#)
- A national thought leader on the economics of higher education, Dr. Richard Vedder of Ohio University, explains how the escalation of college costs is due to rising federal subsidies. He believes the college bubble is

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already bursting and the proof is all of the "unemployed and underemployed college graduates with big debts." ***The Wall Street Journal, 08.24.13***

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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