

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"This has been a generation that has never been allowed to skin their knees. They all won awards at everything they ever tried - most improved player, fourth runner-up, best seven-year-old speller born on March 8." - *Quote from a college dean interviewed for "Why Grade Inflation is a Problem Even at Harvard."*



Quick Links

Colleges and
Governing Boards

Dear Johnette,

Three Louisiana colleges received disappointing and rather embarrassing news from the Legislative Auditor this month. Baton Rouge Community College was called out for failing to deduct FICA and Medicare taxes for many of its employees; Southern Law School was reprimanded for failing to enter more than \$800,000 in federal payments into their accounting system, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette saw three employees get hauled off to jail for stealing metal, wiring, and batteries which they later sold to a scrap yard.

But among the negative stories are a few really good ones. Shreveport's Dr. Phillip Rozeman has been named Chairman of Blueprint Louisiana, and the Louisiana Board of Regents has announced they plan to hold their January board meeting in Shreveport. The Board has not met in Shreveport for the last five years. The LSU Board of Supervisors and Southern University Board also plan to hold meetings in Shreveport later this year.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Dr. Phillip Rozeman, one of the founder's of the SBBA, has been named Chairman of Blueprint Louisiana for 2014-2015. The nonpartisan organization is made up of community and business leaders from across the state. [*Shreveport Times, 12.29.13*](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

- The legislative auditor is reporting that Southern University Law School underestimated federal revenues by more than \$846,000 for the 2013 fiscal year. The auditor attributes the error to employee failure to use the Banner accounting software. [*NOLA.com, 12.30.13*](#)



- A legislative audit at the University of Louisiana Lafayette has resulted in the arrest of three employees. The employees allegedly mismanaged \$10,000 in assets. [*Shreveport Times, 12.23.13*](#)

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- A third report released this month by the Legislative Auditor found Baton Rouge Community College overpaid 95 members of its faculty in 2011-2012 by almost \$500,000. The causes included failure to deduct FICA and Medicare taxes. ***NOLA.com, 12.30.13***
- Louisiana State Senator Conrad Appel (R-Metairie) wants more Louisiana colleges to consider using the Common App. "I'm looking at it from the perspective of parents and students," he said. "If a student wants to go to ULL, LSU or UNO, they have to fill out three different applications." ***The Advocate, 12.30.13***

National Higher Education News

- The authors of a new book examining grade inflation wrote in the Washington Post that in 1969, only 7% of students had a grade of A- or higher in a class. Today, 41% of students receive an A on average in a course. During that same time, 25% of students on average received a C. Today, only 5% of students get a C in a class. ***Washington Post, 12.20.13***
- A Washington Post analysis of 80 colleges in the DC region found that 20 had declines in enrollment of 5% or more since 2010. The schools suffering declines included HBCUs, liberal arts colleges, women's colleges, and other schools with distinct niches. ***Washington Post, 12.20.13***
- A group of Democrat U.S. Senators is proposing legislation that would hold colleges more accountable for student loan defaults. Colleges with high default rates would have to pay a penalty to the federal government. The bill would exempt, however, community colleges and historically black colleges. ***Inside Higher Ed, 12.20.13***

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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