



Shreveport-Bossier
Business Alliance
For Higher Education

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"This is a statement that we were ready to make last year upon calling for the resignation or termination of the President of Louisiana College but due, in large part, to undue influence of the Executive Director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, our actions were derailed and the President remained." -
Portion of a letter signed by 10 members of LC Board of Trustees

Dear Johnette,

Several bills designed to either stall implementation, eliminate PARCC testing, or outright derail Common Core will be heard in the House Education Committee on Wednesday. The only thing certain about tomorrow morning is the room will be packed and emotions will run high. The odds of finding common ground that will satisfy both sides is also incredibly slim. ***For the latest on the behind the scenes negotiating click here.***

State Treasurer John Kennedy believes we need another medical school in the state of Louisiana, but unlike LSU supporters pushing for a school in Baton Rouge, he thinks the school needs to be in Lafayette. Kennedy recently wrote in the Acadiana Business Journal, "A new medical school in Lafayette is needed, and makes financial sense." ***To read Kennedy's entire opinion piece click here.***

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The AEP Foundation has donated \$500,000 to Louisiana Tech to be put toward construction of Tech's Integrated Engineering and Science Education Building. Tech is working to raise \$7.5 million from the private sector to fund the construction. ***The Monroe News-Star, 03.28.14***

Louisiana Higher Education News

- According to a study conducted by LSU, half of the adults in Louisiana know almost nothing about Common Core, which has emerged as they biggest fight this legislative session. LABI's Brigitte Nieland agrees that while the opposition is loud it is actually a small group. "I am not exaggerating when I say it's about the same 30 people who show up at all these events." ***The***



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[Advocate, 03.31.14](#)

- The Louisiana Department of Education says it will cost between \$20 and \$25 million if the legislature votes to scrap Common Core. [The Advocate, 03.30.14](#)
- Ten members of the Louisiana College Board of Trustees have written a letter critical of both the College President and the head of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, who is also a Board member. [Alexandria Town-Talk, 03.29.14](#)
- A recording of a conversation between Louisiana College President Joe Aguillard and key staff was sent to the Alexandria Town-Talk last week, and the recording reportedly contained some highly disparaging comments about Joe Hankins, the Executive Director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention who has been a staunch supporter of Aguillard. [Alexandria Town-Talk, 03.29.14](#)

National Higher Education News

- A recent study from the University of Kansas reports the median net worth for a household without student loan debt is about three times higher than a household with student debt. [The Advocate, 03.28.14](#)

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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