



Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"We can't be everything to everybody. We need to get rid of duplication, and we need to get rid of programs like foreign language.

I'm sorry, but there's not a lot of demand for French-speaking brothers." - Tony Clayton, Southern Board of Supervisors.



Quick Links

Dear Johnette,

The much-loved and longest serving President of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches has announced plans for retirement. Dr. Randy Webb has led the college for 18 years including through recent turbulent times when state funding for higher education plummeted. "My wife and I were looking at the possibility of retiring a few years back , but we did not want to fail to be with our faculty and staff during budget cuts," said Webb. "We wanted to endure that with them to support them." [For the full story on Webb's tenure click here.](#)

Louisiana College President Joe Aguillard narrowly won a vote just one year ago to keep him as President, but insiders say he may not be as lucky this time. After a deluge of more devastating allegations over the last year, the board decides tomorrow whether to renew his contract or send him on his way. Many loyal graduates are watching to see how the vote turns out, including 450 who signed a letter to the board saying, "As trustees, you hold the future of Louisiana College in your hands. You are both responsible and liable for the financial and other consequences of the college. That is a holy obligation that cannot be taken lightly." [For the full story on tomorrow's vote click here.](#)

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- One of the blemishes on President Aguillard's record is his failure to open the doors of his Shreveport-based law school despite having spent \$5.5 million, mostly on renovations to the Joe D. Waggoner building downtown. The project was ultimately doomed when Aguillard could not get SACS to grant the necessary approvals in 2012. [Shreveport Times, 04.08.14](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

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- Southern University System President Dr. Ronald Mason wants to raise admissions standards for students attending the Baton Rouge campus. Currently students can attend with a 2.0 GPA and 20 on the ACT, but he wants to raise the standards to a 3.3 GPA and 23 on the ACT, which is currently required for the Honors College. "I'm not saying we are going to become Yale or Harvard, and there's no plan in place yet, it's just a vision," said Mason. ***Shreveport Times, 04.12.14***
- The \$40 million in funding for the Workforce and Innovation for a Stronger Economy (WISE) Fund may be in jeopardy because further examination of the budget is revealing there is not extra money as originally thought. Plan architect and UL System President Sandra Woodley said, "We're expecting WISE to get funded. I'm an optimist, but also a realist. We're going forward regardless. It doesn't pay to be a whiner." ***The Advocate, 04.14.14***
- The University of Louisiana System has unveiled a Data Dashboard that can tell you just about anything you could want to know about schools in the U.L. System. Building this dashboard was reportedly System President Sandra Woodley's first priority. Communications Director Jackie Tisdell said, "It's not all glowing but it's our data." ***Alexandria Town-Talk, 04.11.14***

National Higher Education News

- U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren is proposing legislation that would allow existing student loan borrowers to refinance their debts. According to her calculations, payments could drop as much as \$1000 a year for some students. ***The Chronicle of Higher Education, 04.14.14***

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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