

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"The reason Louisiana College and institutions like ours exist is because the Bible is truth without any mixture of error. Louisiana College is lashed to the inerrant Word of God and is an academic lighthouse to lost mankind of the eternal hope we have through the Gospel of Jesus Christ." - *LC Board Chairman Tommy French*



Quick Links

Colleges and

Dear Johnette,

No real progress has been made toward TOPS reform or shifting tuition authority from the legislature to the management boards, both of which have become perennial asks from the Board of Regents. But higher education leaders appear happy with what they are getting so far this year from the Louisiana Legislature: stable funding. For the first time in many years, it appears there will be no cut in state funds, institutions will get to keep the extra money generated from increases in tuition, and schools will compete for a share of a \$40 million pot designed to address workforce needs.

The pot of money also appears to be funded with money they can count on. "It started out with a big piece of it coming from overcollections," said Jim Fannin, D-Jonesboro. "It's now funded with state general funds. It's real money."

The Competitive Core Growth Fund, which is expected to allocate more than \$3 million to BPCCC, also appears to be on track for passage. [*For a complete analysis click here.*](#)

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The search has begun for a replacement for retiring Northwestern President Randy Webb. The UL search committee met for the first time last week to develop a plan and timeline for the process. The committee hopes to select a replacement by the week of September 22nd. [*Shreveport Times, 05.08.14*](#)
- Louisiana Tech has selected a new dean for the College of Engineering. Hisham Hegab will be replacing Stan Napper, who was promoted to Vice Chancellor of Research and Development last July. [*Monroe News-Star, 05.08.14*](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

- A bill to restructure TOPS passed out of a Senate Committee only to die on the Senate floor. The bill would have raised the required GPA and ACT score necessary to qualify, which would have eliminated about 3600 students from TOPS. It also would have saved the

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- state about \$26 million. ***The Advocate, 05.13.14***
- The Louisiana Supreme Court has refused to hear a case involving Louisiana College's stance that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. The refusal is considered a win for the college in its 8-year-old legal case. "While the legal expenses paid by our insurance for a case such as this that has run for so many years is expensive, the results are priceless," said Louisiana College President Joe Aguilard. ***Shreveport Times, 05.13.14***

National Higher Education News

- The Washington Post recently published a map showing where states rank in average student loan debt. Louisiana students fall below the national average of \$26,500. ***Washington Post, 05.08.14***
- The Texas Legislature is moving forward on impeaching a member of the University of Texas System Board of Regents. Wallace Hall is accused of violating federal and state student privacy laws and damaging the reputation of the flagship. UT President Bill Powers said his battles with Hall had done "significant harm to our reputation in the academic world nationally and internationally." ***Shreveport Times, 05.13.14***

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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