

## Continuing Education

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### Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"It leads me to believe that the governance of the state is not as important as his other agenda. This is his side gig, which is a shame."  
- BESE President Chas Roemer on Governor Bobby Jindal



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**Dear Johnette,**

Common Core has been a highly divisive issue this legislative session, with Republicans launching a barrage of attacks, often nasty and highly personal, at other Republicans. For many state party loyalists, it has been both shocking and dispiriting to see, but it has not been unique to Louisiana. This session, Louisiana has been a microcosm of a growing national trend.

According to the Center for Public Integrity, nationally, Republicans have spent \$3 attacking other Republicans compared to \$1 spent criticizing Democrats so far this year. Democrats have spent almost no money attacking other Democrats. [Click here to read more.](#)

The divisiveness of Common Core within the national Republican party is also alleged to be the reason Governor Bobby Jindal has reversed his long-held position and become a leading critic of Common Core. Jindal recently said in a prepared statement, "Let's face it: centralized planning didn't work in Russia, it's not working with our health care system, and it won't work in education."

BESE President Chas Roemer, who has become quite comfortable speaking his mind, had this to say about Jindal's statement: "This about Presidential politics." A founding father of Common Core, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, is widely considered a front runner at this time for the Republican nomination for President. The conventional wisdom is that Jindal's new stance will allow him to differentiate himself from Bush and perhaps garner the support of Tea Party voters. [Read the rest of the story here.](#)

To date, supporters of Common Core have been able to stave off innumerable attempts in the legislature to dismantle the education standards and derail plans for the PARCC assessment, but the battle is not over until the legislature adjourns on June 2nd.

*Note: Due to the link between rigorous K-12 standards and the need for increased higher education attendance and improved higher education attainment to power the Louisiana economy, the SBBA has been one of the organizations around the state that supports Common Core.*

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## Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Congratulations to Louisiana Tech for joining the group of state colleges setting graduation records this spring. Tech graduated 957 students. ***Shreveport Times, 05.26.14***

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## Louisiana Higher Education News

- A group of Louisiana College alumni have started a campaign to have a more diverse mix on the Presidential search committee. "The point I am trying to make is if alumni are not included in this process, LC stands to lose its alumni base, several generations of it," said a member of the LC Alumni and Friends group. ***Shreveport Times, 05.27.14***
- TOPS remained untouched this legislative session despite growing recognition something must be done to rein in the cost. The Advocate Editorial Board wrote this weekend, "Procrastination is a human trait, and it is perhaps most pronounced in the herd of humans in the Louisiana Legislature." ***The Advocate, 05.26.14***
- Although Governor Jindal has declared he opposes Common Core, he has done very little to try to influence the outcome of legislation this session. As of May 22, Jindal had reportedly been out of state for 16 of the 42 days of the session. Chief Common Core opponent Brett Geymann (R-Lake Charles) said, "From what I've read he's on our side. He didn't reach out to us." ***The Lens, 05.22.14***

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## National Higher Education News

- Some for-profit colleges already under attack from the Department of Education are now also under investigation by the Federal Trade Commission and some State Attorneys General. The schools are accused of promoting degree programs with an accreditation "that isn't widely accepted by employers." ***The Wall Street Journal, 05.26.14***

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For more information on higher education in Northwest Louisiana, please visit our website at [www.sbba4he.org](http://www.sbba4he.org)

Sincerely,

***Johnette Magner, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher Education***

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