

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"The nearly \$7 million in investment in Louisiana colleges announced today will help prepare local workers with the skills needed for in-demand careers and advance the role of community colleges as engines of economic growth."

Dear Johnette,

In a recent meeting with the Louisiana Board of Regents, the Presidents of three of the state college systems - LSU, UL, and LCTCS - gave good reports, saying stable state funding this year has given them some "breathing room." But Southern University System President Ronald Mason told a different story.

His budget was reduced eight percent this year, in part due to failure to meet Grad Act targets at three of the four campuses, and prospects for the next year are equally gloomy. Baton Rouge Campus President Flandus McClinton said Grad Act targets "are extremely high," and Regents' staff project some schools in the Southern System will miss them again.

Mason told the Board at one point in the meeting, "Unless the Grad Act was intended to literally close schools down, then maybe it's time to start rethinking some of this." **[For more on the meeting click here.](#)**

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The U.S. Department of Labor has awarded \$2.5 million to Bossier Parish Community College for workforce

- U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez on federal grants awarded Monday to three community colleges in Louisiana



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development. The award, announced Monday, will fund advanced training in the manufacturing and mechatronic industries. [NOLA.com, 09.30.14](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

- House Appropriations Chairman Jim Fannin (R-Jonesboro) says he is satisfied with how the Regents have allocated the WISE funding. Fannin said, "The Regents gave final approval Thursday for \$40, which was the total, but the council will allocate the \$36.5 million. Tech and ULM and Pennington have already received their appropriations off the top. Tech and ULM will be able to participate equally in the balance." [Monroe News-Star, 09.25.14](#)
- Prospective law students at LSU are voicing concerns about the cost of a degree along with tough competition in the job market for law school graduates. According to a recent publication, although the average starting salary for a law school graduate is \$61,245, the average public law school student debt is \$84,600. [LSU Daily Reveille, 09.29.14](#)
- The new Jumpstart career diploma is taking off and driving up enrollment at technical colleges around the state. The new high school diploma requires vocational classes in high-demand industries that are designed to lead to solid, middle-class jobs following graduation. [NOLA.com, 09.24.14](#)

National Higher Education News

- California Governor Jerry Brown has signed into law a sweeping measure that dramatically changes the definition of consent to sex on college campuses. Under the "Yes Means Yes" law, students must now ensure they have consent both before and during sexual encounters rather than assuming consent based on the absence of an objection. New students in the UC system will also be required to complete online training about

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sexual assault if they want to register for classes. ***The Chronicle of Higher Education, 09.30.14***

- Foundation endowments at some of America's most elite colleges have almost fully rebounded since the 2008 stock market crash that sent many of the balances plummeting. According to a story in Harvard Magazine, the Harvard endowment is now at \$36.4 billion, "tantalizingly close to its peak of \$36.9 billion reported in June 2008 just before the financial crisis." ***Inside HigherEd, 09.30.14***

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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