

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"What we are seeing is the attempted dismantling of the public higher-education systems in both Louisiana and Wisconsin as a direct result of the presidential aspirations of those states' respective governors." - Daniel J. Hurley, Assoc. VP Government Policy, American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Dear Johnette,

Education leaders and advocates around the state have begun public relations campaigns to educate Louisianians about the budget crisis facing higher education next fiscal year. Although most college chancellors are largely remaining quiet, the heads of their systems are working to rally the public behind finding a solution.

Last week LSU President King Alexander launched a website called the LSU Budget Hub which provides updates and details on the possible budget cuts. [To see the LSU website, click here.](#)

Closer to home, the SBBA is leading a regional effort to inform NWLA residents about the potentially devastating cuts to area colleges. If you would like to learn more, and express your concern about the proposed cuts, please visit www.savelafuture.org and sign the petition to be sent to legislators the first day of the session. It is going to take all of us working together to find and back a solution to avert more crippling cuts to higher education.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The Jindal Administration has told higher education leaders his budget will likely contain more than \$400 million in cuts to higher ed. In this Sunday's Shreveport Times, the SBBA outlined how those cuts might impact area colleges. [Shreveport Times, 02.15.15](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

- The Advocate Editorial Board is hoping Governor Jindal will ease off his stance opposing reductions in tax credits and exemptions in order to provide the legislature with more options for plugging the funding



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hole for higher education. "If there's a possibility of getting the budget out of the ditch, we'll be as happy as anybody if the governor's misguided notions are corrected a bit in this year's legislature." ***The Advocate, 02.13.15***

- The Southern University Board is reportedly revisiting the idea of combining the positions of system President and Baton Rouge campus Chancellor due to budgetary concerns. Current system President Ron Mason may also be up for the job. "When asked, I have responded that I would like to finish the work. However, I do not know what the Board thinks is in the best interest of Southern," Mason said. ***The Advocate, 02.17.15***
- The Chairman of the Louisiana College Board of Trustees has called a special meeting for March 5th to have the board vote on a candidate for President of the college. Tommy French told the Alexandria Town Talk, "Our search committee believes we have a candidate whose impeccable academic credentials and obvious Christian commitment constitute the caliber of leader who can take Louisiana College into the future." ***Alexandria Town Talk, 02.18.15***

National Higher Education News

- The Education Testing Service (ETS) has issued a report stating America's millennials are behind their international peers in literacy, numeracy, and problem solving. The report questions whether the US can "thrive as a nation when a large segment of our society lacks the skills required for higher-level employment." The ETS administers the TOEFL and GRE in more than 180 countries around the world. ***ETS.org, 02.17.15***
- An investigation into the admissions practices at the University of Texas at Austin has revealed that UT President Bill Powers often overruled admissions decisions that negatively impacted children and friends of donors and politicians. Powers defended his actions as standard practice at "virtually every selective university in America." ***Chronicle of Higher Education, 02.13.15***

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.

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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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