



Shreveport-Bossier  
Business Alliance  
For Higher Education

# Continuing Education

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## Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"When Humpty Dumpty falls off the wall on Friday, we're going to need everybody in this room to help piece Humpty Dumpty back together again because it's going to be a tough situation. It's going to be tough to manage morale." - *LSU President F. King Alexander in reference to the higher education funding cuts anticipated in Governor Jindal's budget to be released on Friday.*

**Dear Johnette,**

Moody's Investor Service has become quite the ally in the fight to save funding for higher education in Louisiana. Recently, the firm put the state on notice that additional cuts in state funding to higher education may force them to reduce the credit rating of Louisiana's universities.

In a report issued February 18, Moody's wrote:

*After five years of the deepest funding cuts to public higher education in the nation and significant expense reductions, these universities are ill-equipped to face additional credit stress. The timing and magnitude of state appropriation reductions, ability of universities to quickly align expenses with revenue, and degree of financial cushion to absorb operating volatility will factor into our assessment of ratings and outlooks for individual universities. Currently, Louisiana public university credit quality is lower than the median A1 nationally, reflecting historically weak state funding, anemic operating performance, and limited liquidity.*

[To see the full report click here.](#)

## Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- BPCCC recently made national news when the school agreed to sign Sarah Hudek to a baseball scholarship. Hudek is the daughter of a former Major League baseball player and is a left-handed pitcher who throws at 82 miles per hour. BPCCC coach Aaron Vorachek said, "I think other schools were afraid to take a chance on her, but you're taking a chance with every kid you sign." [Shreveport Times, 02.24.15](#)
- Centenary College has hired a new Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications. Calhoun Allen comes to Shreveport from Franklin University in Switzerland and will begin March 1st. [Shreveport Times, 02.23.15](#)



## Quick Links

### Colleges and Governing Boards

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## Louisiana Higher Education News

- Higher education leaders throughout the state met with legislators on Monday to discuss possible solutions to the anticipated budget cuts for higher education. Estimates for cuts are now as high as \$500 million. One idea suggested by two members of the Board of Regents would be to allow colleges to privatize in exchange for giving up state funding. "I know this radical, and it changes maybe some of the model, but it also could free up a lot of money for the other institutions," said Regent Bill Fenstermaker. ***The Advocate, 02.24.15***
- The college Presidents in the University of Louisiana system - which includes Louisiana Tech, Grambling, and ULM - will all be signing a letter to Governor Jindal and legislators asking them to keep funding stable for higher education. UL System President Sandra Woodley noted, "It's really important not to transfer the burden to students. If a fee increase is not doable for students, you raise the price and you end up lowering the revenue." ***Shreveport Times, 02.25.15***
- The search committee tasked with finding a new President for Grambling still hopes to have someone in place this summer. So far, there are 37 completed applications, but many applicants don't want their names made public until they feel more secure about Grambling's future. "The ones best suited are actively employed in higher education, and they are the most hesitant. They have to be able to make an argument that where they want to go is at least as good as where they are, and right now with Grambling, that is difficult," said the head of search firm. ***Monroe News-Star, 02.24.15***
- The Southern University System Board has voted to merge the positions of the flagship and system Presidents to save money in the wake of anticipated funding cuts to higher education. The board also created a search committee but will not be using a professional firm for the search. ***The Advocate, 02.22.15***

## National Higher Education News

- If your purpose for going to college is to find a good job after graduation, you might look at this report from researchers at Georgetown University. The report says unemployment numbers are going down for most majors with the exception of communications and journalism majors. ***Washington Post, 02.23.15***
- Enrollment is up among young people at for-profit colleges despite the fact the sticker price is typically much higher than the cost of a community college. Experts believe it is because for-profit colleges are

[Shreveport Chamber](#)

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generally much better at marketing and counseling students. ***Hechinger Report, 02.23.15***

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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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*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](mailto:jmagner@sbba4he.org)*

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