



Shreveport-Bossier  
Business Alliance  
For Higher Education

# Continuing Education

Volume 4 Number 9 - *The Weekly Newsletter of the SBBA* - March 3, 2015



## Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"I don't want to throw a wet blanket on this, but I've heard that higher ed is short \$211 million or \$111 million, which means Governor Jindal did a good job in presenting his proposed budget on Friday. **But it's \$565 million short for higher education.** Now, the Governor said he's willing to support things that could raise \$526 million to help, but that's not an easy thing to do." -

State Representative  
Jim Fannin, R-Jonesboro

## Dear Johnette,

By relying on significant changes in a number of tax programs, Governor Jindal's proposed higher education budget for the next fiscal year appears to only cut higher education about \$200 million dollars, instead of the \$400 million threatened. But higher education leaders warn some of the plans to revamp these tax credits already face stiff opposition. Without the tax changes, the cuts to higher education are more than \$560 million, which is a 60% cut in state general fund money. **[For more on the proposed changes click here.](#)**

The proposed tax change receiving the most opposition so far is the proposal to cut the Inventory Tax Credit. Yesterday, Stephen Waguespack with the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI) called the proposed cut "bad policy." This tax credit is worth more than \$400 million and is central to the Governor's plan. **[Learn more about the tax credits here.](#)**

These cuts are positioning business groups and higher education on opposite sides of the issue. During a meeting of legislators and the business community in Monroe earlier this week, State Senator Mike Walsworth, R-West Monroe, summed up the challenges ahead: "If we do all the things the Governor proposed in his budget, just about all of the tax benefits we're talking about benefit businesses."

---

## Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- In an opinion piece in the Shreveport Times last Sunday, State Treasurer John Kennedy talked about the enormous value that LSUHSC- Shreveport brings to the region and how he'd trim the state budget to ensure there are enough state dollars to sustain the school. **[Shreveport Times, 02.26.15](#)**
-



## Quick Links

### Colleges and Governing Boards

[Bossier Parish Community College](#)

[Centenary College](#)

[Grambling](#)

[LSUHSC Shreveport](#)

[LSU Shreveport](#)

[Louisiana Tech](#)

[Northwestern](#)

[Northwest Louisiana Technical College](#)

[Southern University at Shreveport](#)

[LA Board of Regents](#)

[LCTCS System](#)

[LSU System](#)

[Remington College](#)

[Southern University System](#)

[University of LA System](#)

### SBBA Member Organizations

[African American Chamber](#)

[Biomedical Research Foundation](#)

[Bossier Chamber](#)

[CERT](#)

[Committee of One Hundred](#)

[Manufacturers Managers Council](#)

## Louisiana Higher Education News

- While expressing some optimism that the Governor's budget did not slash higher education as much as expected, the state's higher education leaders are united in their insistence that higher education cannot sustain any additional cuts. "The only manageable scenario is zero cuts," said Southern's President Ron Mason. ***The Advocate, 03.02.15***
- One of the often mentioned solutions to the higher education funding picture would be to have students pay an "excellence fee" that would later be reimbursed through a new state tax credit. Although some higher education leaders are saying it is too early to talk about the amount, at least two state leaders have used \$2000 as an example. ***NOLA.com. 03.03.15***
- There is also ongoing conversation about possibly privatizing some of the state's colleges by giving the schools' their buildings and additional operational autonomy in exchange for giving up state funding. Regents Chairman Roy O. Martin said, "You look at some areas of the state, there may be a university or college inside of a university that could do better as a private entity." ***The Advocate, 03.02.15***

## National Higher Education News

- The Board of Trustees of Sweet Briar College near Lynchburg, Virginia, announced today they will be closing their doors in August. The all-female liberal arts college was suffering from low enrollment and a heavily discounted tuition that has the school's finances in "precarious shape." ***Washington Post, 03.03.15***

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***

*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)*

[Shreveport Chamber](#)

[North Louisiana  
Economic Partnership](#)

[Forward this email](#)

 [SafeUnsubscribe](#)

This email was sent to [jmagner@sbba4he.org](mailto:jmagner@sbba4he.org) by [jmagner@sbba4he.org](mailto:jmagner@sbba4he.org) |  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe](#)<sup>TM</sup> | [Privacy Policy](#).



*Try it FREE today.*

SBBA | 400 Edwards Street | Shreveport | LA | 71101