

# Continuing Education

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## Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"I'd set up a report card and have a big press conference and I'd grade legislators. Grade them on their votes. They expect you to be graded. Grade 'em back. They may not like an F, but they earned it." - *LSU President King Alexander to a group of students regarding actions they should take toward lawmakers who are unwilling to generate the revenue needed to save higher education.*

## Dear Johnette,

An LSU survey released this week reports that 80 percent of Louisiana residents think lawmakers need to cut spending this legislative session, but the cuts should not come from higher education, health care, or roads. Eighty-five percent of the respondents also said tax increases are appropriate, but few specific taxes received support.

The tax increases that received the most nods were those for tobacco, alcohol, and gambling. Across the state there is growing support among lawmakers for raising the cigarette tax, which is among the lowest in the nation.

Since 2008, the funding burden for higher education has shifted from the state to students in the form of rising tuition. Sixty-three percent of respondents disagreed with the shift saying the state government should be the primary funder of higher education. ***[For more survey results click here.](#)***

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## Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Dr. Chris Martin, the Dean of the Frost School of Business at Centenary College, has accepted a new position as Dean of the Business School at Louisiana Tech. Martin begins his new job on July 1. ***[Shreveport Times, 03.24.15](#)***
- The U.S. Debate team comprised of students from LSUS beat their British rivals in a tournament last week. LSUS Debate Coach Trey Gibson was the Assistant Coach of the U.S. Team. Gibson and his LSUS students now head to Boise for the IPDA National Championship Tournament. ***[Shreveport Times, 03.18.15](#)***

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## Louisiana Higher Education News

- The head of the Louisiana Association for Business and Industry (LABI) said his group opposes eliminating the



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inventory tax credit, but they would support repealing the inventory tax altogether. Stephen Waguespack also said his group is open to an increase in the cigarette tax and collection of Internet sales taxes. [Monroe News-Star, 03.24.15](#)

- Louisiana's higher education leaders are traveling the state and letting residents know what a state cut of \$608 million would do to their colleges and universities. LSU President King Alexander said he is looking at cutting 2000 courses. "We're talking about survival. We may not be opening in August." [bobmannblog.com, 03.18.15](#)

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## National Higher Education News

- Although they stopped short of calling it a hoax, Charlottesville police say they have found no evidence supporting a story in Rolling Stone magazine that a woman was gang-raped in 2012 by members of a UVA fraternity. "We're not able to conclude to any substantive degree that an incident occurred at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity house or any other fraternity house, for that matter," said Charlottesville Police Chief Timothy Longo. [Washington Post, 03.24.15](#)

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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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