

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"There's no way we can absorb the legacy costs and survive. The term bankruptcy comes to mind." - *LSUHSC - New Orleans Chancellor Dr. Larry Hollier on the inability of the medical school to continue covering hospital retiree costs.*

Greetings!

During a State Senate Finance Committee hearing late last week, Chancellor Robert Barish from Shreveport and Chancellor Larry Hollier from New Orleans both testified that they have burned through their funds trying to cover LSU hospital legacy costs, which are costs associated with retired LSU hospital employees. When hospitals in Shreveport and New Orleans were privatized, these costs were largely shifted to the medical schools in those cities rather than assumed by the private partners or the state. [For more on legacy costs click here.](#)

The projected legacy costs for LSUHSC - Shreveport in the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1 are \$19.8 million. This unfunded obligation is on top of the Jindal administration's proposed 82% cut in state funding to higher education which would also impact the medical school.

According to LSU President King Alexander, if the funding crisis is not solved this summer, both medical schools will be at risk for loss of accreditation. Alexander told the Finance Committee, "We are in jeopardy. Our professional schools are being watched nationally. We could lose our accreditation for our medical programs, and it could happen in October." [For more on the higher education hearing click here.](#)



Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- State Senator Robert Adley had hoped for a hearing Monday on repealing the business inventory tax, but he postponed it following questions regarding whether the measure would generate revenue in the upcoming fiscal year. [The Advocate, 04.20.15](#)

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Louisiana Higher Education News

- The Louisiana Supreme Court has ruled that LSU must release the names of the top four finalists for the President of LSU, a job

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which was given last year to LSU's F. King Alexander. LSU had claimed there were no finalists except Alexander and refused to release any names under consideration to the media. An attorney for LSU said the names will be released next week. *[The Advocate, 04.20.15](#)*

- A brawl, which included gunshots, on the Southern University campus in Baton Rouge two weeks ago has resulted in the arrest of a dozen students. The fight was caught on video and posted on the Internet. Here's a link provided by the New Orleans Times Picayune. *[NOLA.com, 04.20.15](#)*

National Higher Education News

- The State Higher Education Executive Officer's Association (SHEEO) has released its 2014 study examining state spending on higher education. Not surprisingly, Louisiana is noted for cutting spending to higher education since 2009 more than any other state in the country. *[SHEEO Report, 04.15](#)*

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.*

*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*

