

# Continuing Education

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## Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"Even when governors like Mike Foster and Kathleen Blanco were showering our universities with funds, it was never enough to make them what they could or should be. At almost every turn, Louisiana's leaders and its residents were satisfied with good enough. Too often excellence was not the goal unless we were talking about athletics."  
- *LSU Professor and NOLA columnist Bob Mann.*



## Greetings!

Shortly after Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards proposed a \$131 million mid-year cut to higher education to help close the \$750 million budget deficit, college leaders began working on outlining what they would cut. Here's what some of the plans include:

- A \$700 mid-semester fee for all students at LSU Baton Rouge
- Financial exigency (bankruptcy) for the LSU Ag Center
- Furlough for all faculty and staff at LSUS
- Implement a 53% reduction in Faculty Physicians at LSUHSC-Shreveport
- Cancel summer school at SUSLA

Plans released by the UL System and LCTCS system were not school-specific, but the broader plans included "a number of schools declaring financial exigency" in the UL System and laying off 1200 people at community colleges around the state. [For more on the proposed cuts click here.](#)

## Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- State Higher Education leaders joined NWLA legislators on Tuesday for the SBBA's Higher Education Summit. Participants discussed both the proposed \$131 mid-year cut to higher ed and the \$1.9 billion deficit forecast for the state next fiscal year. "The budget reduction is dramatic and will have a disastrous impact on Southern University system. A cut of this magnitude will literally compromise the University System's mission," said Southern President Dr. Ray Belton. [\*The Shreveport Times, 01.27.16\*](#)
- LSUS Chancellor Dr. Larry Clark outlined this week what he would have to do if forced to cut \$1.2 million from this year's budget at LSUS. Because the school is more than half way through the fiscal year, the cut would amount to 32% of the remaining budget. "You can't be innovative when you are told Friday morning to submit something by Monday morning," Clark said. [\*Shreveport Times, 01.25.16\*](#)

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- According to the ACT, only 16% of Louisiana students who took the test last year were academically prepared for college. The weakest areas were math and science. "Our kids are slowly getting further and further behind," said State Superintendent John White. "You have very low numbers in mathematics because kids are not mastering higher level skills very early on." ***Shreveport Times, 01.27.16***
- It's been 12 years since LSU supporters unveiled the Flagship Agenda, an ambitious plan to raise the academic prestige of the Baton Rouge campus. While there was much excitement around the plan, Jindal administration cuts to higher ed pretty much devastated the dream and left the campus fighting to hold together what it had. ***The Advocate, 01.28.16***
- In Louisiana, schools are very limited in their ability to raise tuition, but there is more flexibility with raising fees. Over last decade, fees around the state have increased dramatically, with Southeastern Louisiana University leading the pack. SLU's fees have risen 340%. ***The Advocate, 01.25.16***
- Enrollment at Louisiana's community colleges is up 35% since 2004 as more students are shifting from four to two-year colleges. This shift was a goal of the Jindal administration, but it has not been financially supported. Eight years ago, taxpayers contributed \$3508 for every community college student. Today it is only \$1650. ***The Advocate, 01.29.16***

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## National Higher Education News

- Colleges around the country have begun conducting video interviews with Chinese applicants to assess their English-speaking skills and address cheating concerns. "If you believe in all the fraudulent claims, and there certainly has been some documentation out there, then the one true equalizer is getting an unscripted interview," said Kregg Strehorn, Asst Provost at the University of Massachusetts. ***Associated Press, 01.29.16***
- According to a report in the Chronicle of Higher Education only 10 athletic departments around the country gave more money back to their campus than they received in subsidies. LSU ranked #5 on that list for reportedly returning \$19 million to the school between 2011 and 2014. ***Chronicle of Higher Education, 01.29.16***

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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)*