

## Continuing Education

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### Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"Some institutions, possibly, I cannot say for certain, would have to declare financial exigency. It is not a best case scenario for my system. "  
- *Dr. Dan Reneau, Interim President of the UL System, on what \$70 million in cuts would do to his colleges. A \$70 million cut is considered the smallest cut possible this fiscal year.*



### Quick Links

### Greetings!

Last Wednesday, 250 college students from NWLA boarded buses at 7am so they could be among the 2000 students attending the Student Rally at the Capitol. After the noon rally, the students then attended the SBBA Student Summit at the Capitol where they met with 15 members of the NWLA delegation. The 2 hour event gave students the opportunity to hear from legislators and share their concerns.

This week the SBBA is also delivering a petition to legislators asking them to fully fund higher education. In just one week, the online petition garnered 1500 signatures from North Louisiana residents. **[For more information on both the rally and the petition, click here.](#)**

### Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- East Texas Baptist University in Marshall announced over the weekend it is launching a new scholarship program for Louisiana Students. The Louisiana Educational Advantage Program will offer Louisiana students a \$1000 scholarship if they will cross the border to go to school in Texas. **[Tyler Morning Telegraph, 02.28.16](#)**
- Louisiana Tech has received word from SACS that the school has been granted accreditation for the next 10 years. Accreditation is required of schools if they want their students to be eligible for federal grants and loans. Tech has been continuously accredited since 1927. **[www.latech.edu](http://www.latech.edu), 02.23.16**
- Grambling State University has reinstated its search for an athletic director after the search was suspended just over a week ago. Grambling President Dr. Willie Larkin told the students, "I stand in agreement with you that we are much better served if we indeed continue the search for a permanent director of athletics. **[HBCU Sports, 02.19.16](#)**

### Louisiana Higher Education News

- For the first time since 2005, Moody's Investor Service has downgraded the state of Louisiana's credit rating to Aa3. The only two states with worse ratings are New Jersey and Illinois. Moody's expressed a concern about 2017 budget

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shortfall of \$2 billion and the size of the state's unfunded pension liabilities. ***New Orleans Advocate, 02.26.16***

- The Louisiana House of Representatives passed the one-cent sales tax increase late last week to help plug the budget deficit in the current and next fiscal year. The Clean Penny tax should generate more than \$200 million this year and \$900 million next year. ***The Advocate, 02.25.16***
- Louisiana may be half-way through the budget session, but there is still much work to be done to avoid massive cuts to higher education. One measure under discussion is to remove some of the exemptions from the existing sales taxes. "Cleaning one, two, three or four pennies could change the final number," said House Speaker Taylor Barras. ***NewOrleansAdvocate, 02.26.16***

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## National Higher Education News

- College provosts believe they are turning out graduates ready for the workforce, but according to a Gallup poll, only 11% of employers strongly agree that they are. "It's a shocking gap, it's just hard to even say what's going on here," said Brandon Busted of Gallup. ***Inside Higher Ed, 02.26.16***

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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)*