

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"We believe we've pretty much maxed them out. We'll take a look at other areas, but we didn't go there (to higher education, DHH and private contracts) earlier, so that's where they'll be."
- Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne on where he will likely make \$70 million in mid-year cuts.



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Greetings!

As legislators grapple with the worst state budgetary crisis in recent memory, we are seeing signs that students, who are deciding right now where they want to go to college or do their medical residencies, are looking elsewhere.

Two weeks ago, LSU President King Alexander said that visits from TOPS students to the LSU campus is down 20% this spring. He fears those undergraduates with choices are choosing to go outside of Louisiana.

Dean Steve Nelson of LSU Health in New Orleans said he also believes that fear and uncertainty were evident during Match Day on Friday when only 51% of his students elected to do their residency in Louisiana. In 2012, 63% of LSUHSC-New Orleans students elected to stay. At LSUSHC-Shreveport, only 40% of students this year chose to stay in state for their residency.

"If they want to go out of state because they want a different experience, that's one thing. But we don't want them to think they have to go in order to become the doctor they want to become," Nelson said. [***For more on this story click here.***](#)

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- More than a third of the students at Centenary College receive TOPS dollars to help cover their tuition, but those dollars are in jeopardy for future Centenary students under Senator Blade Morrish's bill that would cut private schools from the list of colleges that can receive TOPS dollars. Morrish's bill would not affect current students; it would only apply to students entering college in 2017 and beyond. [***The Advocate, 03.20.16***](#)
- There was a shake up last week on the House Education Committee. Three members, including State Representative Dodie Horton of Haughton, were removed and replaced by other members. Horton now serves on House Health and Welfare Committee. [***The Advocate, 03.18.16***](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

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- Commissioner Jay Dardenne is expected to announce this week just where he intends to cut an additional \$70 million needed to balance this year's budget. So far, he has indicated that colleges, healthcare, and contracts are most at risk. ***Greater Baton Rouge Business Report, 03.18.16***
- Baton Rouge Business Report publisher Rolphe McColister believes that current fiscal crisis could present an opportunity for the state to get's its fiscal house in order and begin spending according to its priorities. "Change is inevitable and long overdue because our current populist system is unsustainable - so let's seize this opportunity," he wrote. ***Greater Baton Rouge Business Report 03.18.16***
- The search has begun for a new UL System President to replace Dr. Sandra Woodley who resigned late last year. The Board hopes to conduct interviews for the new replacement in May. ***The Advocate, 03.18.16***

National Higher Education News

- Congress may be pushing colleges and universities to disclose where they are investing their dollars in their endowments, but so far they aren't budging. Out of 50 schools contacted by the Associated Press and asked to disclose their investments, 39 refused to provide "a single record." ***The Associated Press, 03.18.16***

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*