

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"If you are a disabled student, good luck getting to one of the library's upper floors. Because of the broken fire alarm, the school cannot operate its three elevators." - *NOLA Columnist Bob Mann on the sad condition of buildings on the SUNO campus.*



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Greetings!

When Governor John Bel Edwards announced last week that the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) would shoulder all of the \$70 million mid-year shortfall left, higher education leaders breathed a sigh of relief. Already saddled in February with the \$28 million TOPS shortfall, they were concerned they would have to absorb more.

Now most feel confident they can make it through the end of the school year that wraps up in May, but after that, nothing is certain.

The \$750 million deficit left for the next fiscal year can only be resolved through spending cuts; the state legislature is prohibited from raising taxes during this session. So right now, everyone is waiting to see how the Governor divides the cuts up among the few unprotected areas of the budget. ***[For more on the cuts click here.](#)***

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Bossier Parish Community college has received a \$25,000 grant from Citizens National Bank. This gift is the first installment of a \$250,000 pledge made by Citizens. The money will be used to fund a variety of student services. "The significant effort BPCC makes toward training and educating individuals and allowing them opportunities for a better future makes our commitment to BPCC an easy decision," said Woody Schick, CEO. ***[KEEL Radio, 03.22.16](#)***

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Governor John Bel Edwards' plans to divert state dollars earmarked for new construction, to deferred maintenance on existing buildings, is not good news for the Community College system. This move is expected to greatly slow down construction plans for 29 new buildings on campuses across the state. ***[The Advocate, 03.28.16](#)***
- Former Economic Development Secretary Stephen Moret is working to craft a new fundraising model for LSU that he

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hopes will result in raising more than \$1 billion as part of a capital campaign. "This will be a campaign that will be about establishing LSU's future in the state and the country," he said. ***Baton Rouge Business Report, 03.30.16***

- Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, the former Chief of Staff for the Louisiana Board of Regents, has been named by President Obama as a deputy undersecretary of Education. She will be part of the Education Department's Senior Leadership Team overseeing national higher education policy. ***Inside Higher Ed, 03.30.16***
- Dr. John Nicklow, the new President of UNO, may not have been the choice of the New Orleans business community, but he's reaching out to them to build relationships that he considers critical to the success of both. "We're feeding the businesses and the industry of the city. I'm not sure New Orleans works without us," he said. ***NOLA.com, 03.26.16***
- A new Chancellor has been selected for Southern University Law School in Baton Rouge. John Pierre is currently a Vice Chancellor there and has been serving as interim Chancellor in recent months. Pierre said he is interested in growing the law school and perhaps opening an evening law center in Shreveport. ***The Advocate, 03.22.16***

National Higher Education News

- "Starving the Beast", a documentary about the decline of state funding for higher education, debuted in Austin at the South by Southwest Film Festival. Louisiana's higher education woes were prominently featured, and the film's next showing will be in Baton Rouge in April. ***Inside Higher Ed, 03.22.16***
- A recent report released by the Education Trust shows wide variance of graduation rates of African Americans at seemingly similar colleges. The report concludes that those schools providing more support services and a more welcoming environment are having the most success. ***NOLA.com, 03.26.16***
- U.S. colleges are having to revisit admissions practices for Chinese students as result of national, widespread cheating on the ACT and SAT exams. There are now large, organized rings of test-takers in China who sit in for weaker students willing to pay for a higher score. Each year, approximately 300,000 Chinese students enroll in U.S. schools. ***The Hechinger Report, 03.22.16***

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*