

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"We are not where we want to be. There is someone who can do the loaves and fishes trick, but it isn't me." - Governor John Bel Edwards on the \$750 million cuts in the Executive Budget.



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Greetings!

Governor John Bel Edwards' Executive Budget released today can be described as nothing short of devastating to TOPS recipients and aspirants. Under the Governor's budget, TOPS will receive a 66% reduction in the awards it may give for the fiscal year beginning in July 2016.

There are two possibilities for how these cuts will work. The first would be to raise the criteria for qualification, which would reportedly take the minimum ACT required to about a 26.

The other option on the table, and the one favored by the Governor, would be to give all eligible students about a third of what students received the year before.

Legislators also have the option this regular session to impose deeper cuts in other areas and divert those savings to TOPS or to even raise additional funds during a possible second special session late in June. But for now, all bets are off and the timing could not be worse for students needing and wanting to finalize college plans over the next two months. **[For more on the TOPS cuts click here.](#)**

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- A dozen engineering students from Louisiana Tech are headed to Detroit to compete in Shell's Eco-marathon competition. One of the cars they have designed runs on diesel and is predicted to exceed 500 miles a gallon. **[Red River Radio, 04.12.16](#)**
- Louisiana Tech's Online Masters Degree in Healthcare Informatics has been ranked #20 in the nation by Best College Review Journal. Criteria for the ranking included scheduling, flexibility, affordability and academic reputation. **[The Ruston Leader, 04.12.16](#)**

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Higher education is slated to receive only a 6% cut in funding next year, but still, that may be enough to force furloughs at colleges within the University of Louisiana system. UL System President Dan Reneau

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explained, "TOPS critically affects enrollment and if they don't fund the program, our enrollment will go down, which means our finances go down with it." ***Shreveport Times, 04.12.16***

- The new President of UNO has made some staffing changes beginning with ousting the Vice President of Communications. Kevin McLin, the former publicist for Michael Jackson and a member of the band Windjammer, made \$175,000 a year. ***NOLA.com, 04.12.16***

National Higher Education News

- To meet future workforce demand in the U.S., it is estimated we need 60% of adults to have some post-secondary education by 2025. Unfortunately, we are making little progress. In fact, the U.S. has fallen from 1st in the world by this measure to 13th, lagging behind Canada, Japan and Korea. ***The Hechinger Report, 04.12.16***
- With the advent of the Common Application, applying to college has never been easier and many students are applying to far more than they did a decade ago. In 1990, just 9% of students applied to seven or more schools. Today that number is 32%. ***New York Times, 04.11.16***

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