

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"We will do whatever is necessary to raise the revenue it takes to fund critical services. It's going to be up to the Legislature if they want to go home and face the consequences of what will happen if we don't." - Ben Nevers, Chief of Staff to Governor John Bel Edwards.



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Greetings!

There are just two weeks left in the special session and less than three weeks before the new fiscal year begins. You would think that Louisiana's colleges, hospitals, prisons, and school systems would have some idea of what their budgets look like for 2016-2017. But this year, they don't have any idea.

When the special session began a week ago, the state was facing a \$600 million deficit that included a \$44 million cut to K-12, \$55 million cut to higher education, \$100 million cut to hospitals, and \$150 million cut to TOPS. Of the utmost concern locally has been LSUHSC-Shreveport. The medical school still has a \$35 million deficit, which left unfilled, could lead to both bankruptcy and eventual closure.

Since the session began, the House has voted to generate \$200 million in additional revenue, but it has not been determined where the money will go. Ben Nevers, Governor Edwards' Chief of Staff, said last week that if less than \$600 million is raised, the administration and staff are prepared to move forward with hospital and university closures. ***[For more on the budget deficit click here.](#)***

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The Capital Outlay bill was passed by the House late last week, and it contains funds for renovations, repairs, and new construction at several NWLA colleges including Grambling and Louisiana Tech. The bill now heads to the Senate for approval. ***[Shreveport Times, 06.11.16](#)***
- LSUHSC professors Terry Davis and Norman Harris have both received the Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Award from LSU. The award is considered the most prestigious teaching award given by LSUHSC-Shreveport. ***[Shreveport Times, 06.12.16](#)***

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Governor Edwards has said only 1/3 of every dollar raised during the special session can be put toward TOPS, so the legislature must raise at least \$450 million to fully fund the popular scholarship program. Edwards has also said,

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however, he'd much rather see the legislature raise \$600 million to completely close the deficit rather than just enough to fully fund TOPS. ***Shreveport Times, 06.06.16***

- Louisiana voters will get to decide this fall whether the four college management boards can raise tuition at state colleges or if it should be left up to the legislature. Louisiana is one of only two states in the country where tuition at public colleges is determined by the legislature. ***The Advocate, 06.02.16***
- LSU and Southern University will soon be in the marijuana-growing business. The legislature passed a bill last month to allow the schools to grow marijuana to be used for the treatment of 10 debilitating medical diseases. The drug will not be smoked, but rather be consumed in liquid form. ***The Advocate, 06.06.16***

National Higher Education News

- Burning Glass Technologies, a job market analytics company, has released a study showing liberal arts graduates increase their marketability dramatically if they also possess skills in one of eight other areas such as computer programming, data analysis, and management. Burning Glass CEO Mike Sigelman further added, "Employers really value soft skills which are the bedrock of a liberal arts education." ***Chronicle of Higher Education, 06.08.16***

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