

# Continuing Education

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## Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"We can no longer put rose-colored glasses on this and pretend this is fine and dandy. We are not going to let the medical school go under."- *LSU President King Alexander on the financial crisis facing LSUHSC-Shreveport.*



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## Greetings!

When LSU President King Alexander testified last week before the Board of Regents about the poor financial health of Shreveport's medical school, he used strong language, primarily blaming the situation on University Health, the medical school's partner. He said University Health has sizable unpaid invoices and owes the medical school millions of dollars. University Health has since responded and denies they owe the school anything.

This very public dispute has since lead to a deluge of media coverage and public statements from all parties involved. For the latest story on the dispute released today by the Associated Press [click here.](#)

The one thing that is for sure, is that the medical school is quickly running out of money and something **must be done**. Last week the Board of Regents put the medical school on fiscal watch following their release of a financial health analysis assigning scores to all of the institutions in the state. On a scale of zero to five, with five as the highest possible score, LSUHSC-Shreveport scored a one. Only SUNO had a lower score. To view scores of all the schools [click here.](#)

We at the SBBA are gravely concerned about the future of the school because if this situation is not addressed soon, the medical school will run out of money. Therefore, we ask Governor Edwards and his administration to **intervene immediately** and do whatever is necessary to prevent irreparable harm to our school.

## Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Valencia Sarpy Jones, a New York Life Agent from the Natchitoches area, has been appointed to fill the recently vacated seat on the LSU Board of Supervisors. She will represent NWLA and is replacing former Board Chairman and Bossier resident Ray Lasseigne. [The Advocate, 08.30.16](#)
- Louisiana Tech has a received a \$6 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The money will be used to study epileptic brain seizures and long term effects of on memory. [Monroe News-Star, 08.24.16](#)
- There has been another shake up in leadership at Grambling State University. The newly appointed interim

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Provost has named two new Deans. Provost Ellen D. Smiley has appointed Danny Hubbard as the interim Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and Donald White has been appointed interim Dean of the College of Business. ***Monroe News Star, 08.29.16***

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## Louisiana Higher Education News

- The Board of Regents is embarking on an ambitious higher education restructuring project that will result in a recommendation to the legislature next spring. The recommendations may include mergers and closures for colleges across the state. State Senator Sharon Hewitt told the Board during a recent meeting what she wants to see: "I would hope what you recommend is very specific," she said. "Take the ball all the way to the goal line so that we can actually vote on something that is exactly your plan. I want it all there in black and white." ***The Advocate, 08.25.16***
  - For the last five years, college enrollment has been on the decline across Louisiana. The state now has 10,000 fewer students, which is a 4.4% decline, compared to enrollment in 2010. The decline has been attributed to increasing tuition costs. "We are now very sensitive to the cost of enrollment, and we hope to start reversing that trend of tuition increases," said Southern President Ray Belton. ***Shreveport Times, 08.31.16***
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## National Higher Education News

- University of Texas students who are opposed to the new Texas law that allows students to carry concealed guns to class are protesting by carrying sex toys around campus. The 4500 toys, which have been widely distributed, are reportedly dangling from backpacks. Protester Rosie Zander told the Austin newspaper they are fighting absurdity with absurdity. "We're telling people the dildos will stay as long as the guns are here." ***Washington Post, 08.25.16***
  - The National Labor Relations Board has ruled that graduate students who work as teaching and research assistants are covered by federal labor laws. This ruling also means they have the right to unionize. The 3-1 decision reverses a 2004 decision which stated graduate assistants were primarily students and therefore not eligible for the same protections as employees. ***NOLA.com, 08.24.16***
  - According to the Hechinger Report, southern states have cut state spending on higher education and increased tuition since 2008 more than northern states have. Dave Spence, President of the Southern Region Education Board said, "It is a vicious cycle. You've got a region that's poor. Why? Because it's undereducated." ***Hechinger Report, 08.29.16***
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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,

***Jhnette 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. Jhnette Magner at [jmagner@sbba4he.org](mailto:jmagner@sbba4he.org)*