

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"There is some concern that giving the boards this power will lead to some students being priced out of college. That is a valid issue. But the boards will have an incentive to make sure tuition is reasonable to keep attracting students.

Taking the legislature out of the equation should make the process less political and more rational." -

New Orleans Times-Picayune Editorial Board on their support for Amendment #2 on the Tuesday's ballot

Tomorrow is Election Day across the country, and for Louisiana's college presidents, it's the day they learn whether higher education leaders will finally be allowed to set tuition rates in Louisiana. Currently, Louisiana is one of only two states where legislators, instead of higher education boards, set student tuition.

Support for Amendment 2 is strong across both the higher education and business communities. In a recent meeting of college chancellors, it was made clear that passage of the amendment does not mean they will all raise tuition.

"The business-like approach is to operate on market prices," explained UNO President John Nicklow. "It's not a green light to raise tuition." ***For more on what college presidents have to say click here.***

Business leaders are also supporting the measure, believing tuition decisions are best made by the higher education systems. The SBBA, Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, Bossier Chamber of Commerce and Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce all support the passage of Amendment #2.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The SBBA and Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce hosted Higher Education Commissioner Joseph Rallo last week during his visit to NWLA. Commissioner Rallo praised the region for the strength of the partnership between business and higher ed. "The North Louisiana community is super supportive of higher education," Rallo said. ***Shreveport Times, 11.03.16***
- CollegeChoice.net has ranked Northwestern State University as the most affordable online college in the United States. The ranking was based on academic quality, teaching and technical support, flexibility, and total cost. ***University Business, 11.03.16***

Louisiana Higher Education News

- A handful of wealthy businessmen have largely funded a political action committee working to ensure the passage of Amendment 2. The Excellence in Higher Education Ballot Proposition Committee has raised more than \$350,000 in



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cash and in-kind contributions in an effort to ensure passage of the tuition authority amendment. [NOLA.com, 11.07.16](#)

- Because the state faces at least a \$300 million deficit, the Edwards administration is saying there will be no mitigating cuts to TOPS, as many had hoped. "It doesn't look like we're going to be able to find any additional money for TOPS, or any other area of the budget for that matter. I don't think there's any doubt the rising unemployment is playing an increasing role in budget shortfalls," said Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne. [Greater Baton Rouge Business Report, 11.03.16](#)

National Higher Education News

- The Harvard University Athletic Director has cancelled the men's soccer season following news of a multi-year tradition of the team creating a report where they ranked female athletes on attractiveness, speculated on sexual preference, and assigned them sexual positions. "The team will forfeit its remaining games and will decline any opportunity to achieve an Ivy League championship or to participate in the NCAA Tournament this year," said Athletic Director Robert Scalise. [NOLA.com, 11.07.16](#)

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

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