

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"We have become a poaching ground for many institutions. Another cut furthers the dire situation we are in."
- *LSU President F. King Alexander on how colleges in neighboring states are aggressively recruiting both LSU faculty and Louisiana high school students.*



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When LSU President F. King Alexander testified before the House Appropriations Committee this week, he expressed his concern about how higher education budget and TOPS cuts are likely to further cripple the flagship's recruitment and retention efforts in 2017.

LSU student enrollment is down 3.5 percent this spring, but Alexander's greater concern is what TOPS cuts will do to fall enrollment figures. He says the University of Alabama, Texas A&M University, and the University of Georgia are offering more merit scholarships to top Louisiana high school students. "The uncertainty of all this has the potential to drive our best and brightest out of state," Alexander said.

Currently, 75% of LSU attendees, which is 14,000 students, receive TOPS scholarships. In January, TOPS students will have a 60% cut in their state aid. ***[For more on TOPS cuts click here.](#)***

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The Louisiana Board of Regents has approved a second doctoral degree for Northwestern State University. According to Northwestern Professor Bill Morrison, the Doctorate of Education in Adult Learning and Development will "focus on developing community college administrators and preparing leaders and faculty to work with adult learners and workforce development." ***[Natchitoches Times, 12.09.16](#)***
- Kiplinger has ranked Louisiana Tech as the "best value" in the state for students outside Louisiana. Tech was also named #72 among colleges throughout the country. The ranking was included in Kiplinger's 2017 Best College Values Report. ***[news.latech.edu, 12.15.16](#)***
- NWLA Technical College Chancellor Dianne Clark says even though she is bracing for mid-year cuts, she is excited about where the college is headed. She graduated 53 students this fall and almost all immediately had jobs. "The reality is we are going to face budget cuts, but just as real is that we are doing everything within our scope of possibility to maintain the integrity of these programs. That just means we have to do some creative partnerships." ***[Minden Press Herald, 12.12.16](#)***

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Louisiana Higher Education News

- LCTCS System President Dr. Monty Sullivan is one of three finalists for Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents. The Board is expected to select the new Chancellor sometime later this month. Finalists have been meeting with Board staff and campus representatives this week. ***Herald Chronicle, 12.06.16***
- Colleges throughout Louisiana are getting their leadership teams in place for the coming year. New leaders announced this month include Dr. Chris Maggio, Acting President of Northwestern; Dr. Guiyou Huang, Chancellor of LSU Alexandria; Dr. Lisa Mims-Devezin, Chancellor of SUNO; and Dr. Larisa Littleton-Steib, Chancellor of Baton Rouge Community College. ***Shreveport Times, 12.09.16***
- Higher Education Commissioner Dr. Joseph Rallo is requesting an additional \$188 million in higher education dollars for next fiscal year. Of that amount, \$89 million would help fund TOPS and \$35 million would cover need-based grants. ***Shreveport Times, 12.15.16***

National Higher Education News

- US Education Secretary John King is sticking with his earlier decision to strip the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools of its authority to accredit colleges. This is a fatal blow to the organization because students at their member schools will no longer be eligible for federal dollars. ***The Wall Street Journal, 12.13.16***
- College graduation rates may be up this year, but a new report from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center shows older students are lagging behind younger ones, and graduating at much lower rates. Nearly 50% of students over the age of 20 who enroll for the first time, will drop out without a credential. ***Forbes, 12.08.16***
- National higher education leaders are speculating that the Trump administration is going to shift its focus somewhat with respect to higher education. They believe Trump will continue the "completion agenda" but there will also be increased emphasis on strengthening community colleges and workforce alignment. "The administration is going to challenge us to be better connected to the economy and work force needs," said Eloy Ortiz Oakley, incoming President of the California Community College System. ***Inside HigherEd, 12.09.16***

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