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# SBBA hosts higher education summit

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SHREVEPORT, LA (KSLA) - Higher education leaders and state legislators met in Shreveport Tuesday morning to discuss education priorities and needs. They meet once a year before the legislative session to talk about higher education needs and legislators get a chance to explain what can be expected out of the session.

The Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher Education hosted this event.

"It gives both parties an opportunity to learn about what the other is thinking. Especially what the legislators bring is the mood - the overall picture," said Johnette Magner, the Executive Director of SBBA.

Two things discussed were the funding for both TOPS and GO Grants. Last year, TOPS was only partially funded and it is expected that may be the case again this year. GO Grants are need-based grants.

"The Board of Regents wants to increase those considerably, actually double the amounts. Those would go to recipients of Pell Grants, who actually have more to pay than the Pell Grant covers. I think we're moving into an era where we're focusing on the non-traditional student more, and making sure they have the funds they need to go to college," said Magner.

The goal is to walk away with a shared agenda for higher education in Northwest Louisiana.

Nine legislators were slated to talk Tuesday, as were representatives from the 9 different higher education school systems in Northwest Louisiana and the Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Joseph Rallo. Those school systems include Northwestern State University, LSU-Shreveport, Southern University Shreveport Louisiana, Bossier Parish Community College, LSU Health, Grambling State University, Louisiana Tech, Centenary College, and Louisiana Technical College.

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