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**Johnette M. Magner, Ph.D.**

November 2, 2012

Dear Members of the LSU Board of Supervisors:

As a coalition of business leaders and business organizations representing the Shreveport-Bossier community, we are writing to express our support for Dr. Robert Barish, MD, MBA, as Chancellor of the LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport and to ask you to forestall any change in his status, or that of the Health Sciences Center as an autonomous academic entity within the LSU system.

From 2000 to 2005, our community and its legislative delegation worked successfully with the Louisiana Legislature to establish the Shreveport Health Sciences Center as a "self-contained entity" with a Chancellor, to reflect not only the desire of our community, but to demonstrate the recognition that the unique needs of our community warranted a cessation of the 'cumbersome administrative relationship' that 'would only hinder ongoing efforts to...serve the critical medical needs of the State in general and north Louisiana in particular.'

Since that time, the Shreveport Health Sciences Center has been not only the most financially successful hospital in the LSU system, but has been an anchor organization in our community as an employer, an educational institution and a center for research and development.

We believe that the AGB recommendations ignored the input of the community, violate our intentions with the 2005 legislative action, contradict the intentions of the Board of Regents when they approved this structure, and potentially undercut the future of the Shreveport Health Sciences Center as an



economic engine for our region, as a research destination and as a center for medical education for the state.

We believe that the AGB recommendations to downgrade the Shreveport Health Sciences Center and demote the Chancellor currently under consideration by the board are misguided at best, potentially destructive at worst and place all of our success to date at risk.

We therefore ask that you reject the recommendations of the AGB, retain the position of Chancellor with a direct reporting relationship to the President of LSU and maintain the LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport as an autonomous academic entity within the new LSU.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick W. Harrison".

Patrick Harrison, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich DesCoteaux".

Rich DesCoteaux, Vice Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Jackson".

Steven Jackson, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Smith".

Jason Smith, Treasurer

Officers of the Board of Directors

Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher Education