

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Report

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has released a study showing Louisiana ranks second in the nation in cuts in state spending per college student. Louisiana spends \$4715 less per student today than the state did in 2008.

Dear Johnette,

An attempt by Jindal staffers to get Higher Education Commissioner Jim Purcell fired last week did not go as planned. Not only did the Board of Regents make it clear they were pleased with Purcell's performance, and had no intention of firing him, but six Republican lawmakers who got wind of it came out in support of Purcell and ran straight to the media with their views on the situation.

Regents have since had a follow-up meeting, this time directly with Governor Jindal, that Regents Chairman Bubba Rasberry described as "convivial." During this meeting Regents expressed their concerns about higher education funding and asked Jindal to support giving tuition authority to the higher education management boards.

Jindal is now on record supporting the shift in tuition authority provided the measure includes higher performance standards for colleges with more oversight from the legislature. Area chancellors are seeking tuition authority to help offset a 42% cut in state funding to Louisiana colleges since 2008. [See CPBB Study for more details.](#)

Following a higher education strategy retreat last month, the SBBA Board voted to support efforts to shift tuition authority from the legislature to the management boards. We will be following this issue throughout the legislative session.



Quick Links

[Colleges and Governing Boards](#)

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The LSU Board of Supervisors voted unanimously last week to approve the MOU between LSUHSC and the Biomedical Research Foundation. Now negotiations begin. [The Shreveport Times, 03.27.13](#)
- LSU Board of Supervisors member Dr. John George recused himself when the vote came up for LSUHSC. George is the incoming Chairman of the Board for Biomed. [The Advocate, 03.31.13](#)

Bossier Parish
Community College

Centenary College

LSUHSC Shreveport

LSU Shreveport

Louisiana Tech

Northwestern

Northwest LA
Technical College

Southern University at
Shreveport

LA Board of Regents

LCTCS System

LSU System

Southern University
System

University of LA
System

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Biomedical Research
Foundation

Bossier Chamber

CERT

Committee of One
Hundred

Manufacturers
Managers Council

Shreveport Chamber

Louisiana Higher Education News



- Members of the Board of Regents sat down with Governor Jindal last week to discuss their differences, which include cuts in funding of higher education and the continued employment of Commissioner Jim Purcell. ***The Advocate, 03.31.13***
- The retired editor of the Lake Charles American Press applauds the Board of Regents for refusing to fire Jim Purcell despite pressure from Jindal staffers. ***The Lake Charles American Press, 03.31.13***
- In one of their harshest editorials yet, The Advocate Editorial Board described the Jindal budget as a "shell game" and said, "Unless the governor and Legislature raise some more revenues, or drastically cut other areas of the budget by some means, higher education is headed for a fiscal crash that could be even worse than the last five years of declining state aid and mid-year budget cuts." ***The Advocate, 04.01.13***
- The Lake Charles American-Press Editorial Board endorses tuition freedom for Louisiana colleges. ***Lake Charles American-Press, 03.28.13***
- The LSU Board of Supervisors has hired a new President to lead the flagship. F. King Alexander will begin his new post in July. ***The Alexandria Town Talk, 03.28.13***
- The faculty at Southern University are considering filing an injunction against system President Ronald Mason to block his plan to consolidate services. ***NOLA.com, 03.27.13***

National Higher Education News

- The Atlantic magazine weighs in on state cuts to higher education around the country in their piece entitled "A Truly Devastating Graph on State Higher Education Spending." ***The Atlantic, 03.20.13***

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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