

## Continuing Education

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### Letter from J. Michael Johnson

J. Michael Johnson, former Dean of the Judge Paul Pressler School of Law, responds to stories about Louisiana College's decision to put the Joe D. Waggoner Federal Building up for sale.



### Quick Links

[Colleges and Governing Boards](#)

[Bossier Parish Community College](#)

### Dear Johnette,

LSU's plan to have a single head of the flagship campus and LSU System is not sitting well with the system's accrediting agency. Belle Wheelan, the President of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), told the transition team last week that she is concerned the proposed arrangement would create a conflict of interest that would lead to a disadvantage for the other LSU campuses. "How is that going to work if Eunice has a problem?" she asked. "Would there be an issue with King acting as Chancellor and President?" Wheelan also noted that if "there is only one entity there can be only one sports team," suggesting satellite campuses would have to abandon some of their sports teams.

That said, the LSU Board of Supervisors still approved five new teams for LSU-Alexandria to begin in 2014. The teams will be funded with a hike in student athletic fees and private support.

The Advocate has endorsed a hike in the tobacco tax, which will be heard in the Ways and Means committee today in Baton Rouge. Two amendments to the proposals would dedicate the increased funds to the state's two public medical schools. The medical school in Shreveport is facing a \$42 million budget shortfall for the next fiscal year.

Supporters of HB 623 and HB 537 have been encouraged to email members of the committee and voice their support for dedicating the funds to medical education. The committee members can be reached at [APA.H-WM@legis.la.gov](mailto:APA.H-WM@legis.la.gov).

### Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- The LSUS student newspaper, The *Almagest*, ran an editorial last week arguing for the need for additional funds and growth on the local campus. [\*The Almagest\*, 04.17.13](#)
- Members of the Monroe community share their optimism

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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African American  
Chamber  
Biomedical Research  
Foundation  
Bossier Chamber  
CERT  
Committee of One  
Hundred  
Manufacturers  
Managers Council  
Shreveport Chamber

about the future of E.A. Conway's partnership with the Biomedical Research Foundation. *Monroe News-Star, 04.19.13*

## Louisiana Higher Education News



- The President of SACS, the accrediting organization for LSU, told the LSU Transition Team she has concerns regarding plans to combine the jobs of the heads of the system and flagship. "Changing it such that Dr. Alexander is going to be both the President of the System and the CEO of the campus is awkward," Belle Wheelan said. "The primary responsibility of the CEO is to the institution, not the organization. It becomes difficult to know which hat you are wearing." *The Daily Reveille, 04.21.13*
- The Advocate Editorial Board has endorsed an increase in the tax on tobacco, not only because it would mean more revenue, but also because research shows high tobacco taxes are effective at curbing teen smoking. *The Advocate, 04.21.13*
- The new President of LSU has been selected and he's signed his contract, but that hasn't stopped members of the media from filing suit against the Board of Supervisors over not releasing the names of the finalists for LSU's top job. A hearing is scheduled for April 25th. *NOLA.com, 04.20.13*
- Louisiana's high school graduation rate is up 1% from last year and up 11% since 2001. The Advocate editorial board writes, "A high school graduate is better prepared for work and better prepared to be able to take advantage of the training programs and other educational opportunities available." *The Advocate, 04.21.13*
- The Louisiana Board of Supervisors has approved five new sports teams for LSU-Alexandria. The new teams would include men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer, and women's tennis. *The Town-Talk, 04.18.13*

## National Higher Education News

- With college tuition costs soaring and fewer graduates finding jobs when they leave school, there is a growing number of young people choosing to skip college, believing it is no longer worth the time and expense. *USA Today, 04.22.13*

For more information on higher education in Northwest Louisiana, please visit our website at [www.sbba4he.org](http://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](mailto:jmagner@sbba4he.org)*

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