

Continuing Education

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Court Ruling Against LSU Supervisors

District Court Judge Janice Clark took little time on Friday before ruling the LSU System had to "immediately produce" the names of the finalists for the LSU President's job. The system is still holding the names, however, saying they are confident they will win on appeal.



Quick Links

Dear Johnette,

The Trustees of Louisiana College in Pineville meet tonight to discuss a painful development: the loss of the school's biggest donor in its history. The anonymous donor, who had reportedly pledged \$60 million to the School of Divinity, has withdrawn support from the college after giving the school just \$5 million of the pledged amount. In a letter to trustees he wrote, "We deeply regret we must now discontinue that support due to actions of President Aguillard which we believe to be unethical and potentially illegal." Both the donor and the departing Dean of the Divinity School have alleged Aguillard misappropriated some of the funds, using them for other purposes including a project in Tanzania and costs associated with the proposed Judge Paul Pressler School of Law.

We may still find out the names of the finalists for the LSU President's position even though Dr. F. King Alexander has already been selected and signed a contract. State media outlets took the LSU Supervisors to court this month claiming they violated the law by keeping the names of the finalists a secret. The media have won the first round with a district judge ordering the Supervisors to release the names. LSU is working on an appeal.

A Senate committee has passed SB204, Senator Robert Adley's (R-Benton) legislation that would allow community colleges and technical schools to bypass the traditional capital outlay process and secure funds by finding private partners and getting loans from the general fund. Historically, the Board of Regents has received requests from all the systems, prioritized them, and submitted them to the capital outlay system. The bill now heads to the Senate floor.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- In an effort to steer more capital outlay money to the community and technical colleges, Senator Robert Adley (R-Benton) has ended up pitting Dr. Joe May, the head

Colleges and Governing Boards

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

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System

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System

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Bossier Chamber

CERT

Committee of One
Hundred

Manufacturers
Managers Council

Shreveport Chamber

of the LCTCS System, against the Board of Regents, which now publicly opposes the legislation. Included in the legislation is \$18.5 million for a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) building at BPC. ***The Advocate, 04.29.13***

Louisiana Higher Education News

- An anonymous donor who has given \$5 million to Louisiana College in Pineville over the last two years has pulled his future support accusing President Aguiard of using donations intended for a Divinity School for other purposes. ***Faith on View, 04.24.13***
- A survey of Louisiana residents showed that while most oppose reducing the amount of the TOPS award, 57% support raising the academic requirements to receive it. Barry Erwin, President of Council for a Better Louisiana (CABL) also supports changing the standards. "It makes sense that while we're raising standards in other areas, we should also do it for TOPS." ***The Advocate, 04.28.13***
- The Board of Regents has considered filing a lawsuit that would place tuition authority in the hands of the management boards instead of the legislature, but the Regents have decided to first give the legislature an opportunity to address the issue this session. ***The Advocate, 04.26.13***
- Higher Education Commissioner Jim Purcell received a glowing review from the Board of Regents this month in stark contrast to the informal review given by at least one member of the Governor's staff in recent months. Dr. Albert Sam, Chairman of the Personnel Review Committee, said, "We look forward to working with him for a very, very long time." ***The Advocate, 04.24.13***



National Higher Education News

- Employers report they plan to hire just 2% more college graduates this year than they did last fall, which was down 13% from the previous year. About 1/3 of upcoming graduates report applying for more than 40 jobs. ***Linked In: Jeff Selingo, Editor, Chronicle of Higher Education***

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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