



Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"What we find is very poor students academically that are borrowing to the max, getting the maximum in Pell Grant and just going from school to school." - Rich Heath, a Community College Director of Financial Aid, explaining in the Washington Post how these "students" are defrauding the federal government.

Dear Johnette,

Three times this month, Louisiana Tech University has landed a top spot on a national ranking of colleges and universities. The first came June 1st from an online financial news site, AdvisorOne, which ranked Tech #21 in the nation for return on investment. The next ranking announcement came just four days later when Affordable Colleges Online listed Tech at #17 among "Low Cost Colleges with High Starting Salaries for Graduates."

The third ranking was released last week by Business Insider, a news and information website. This group gave Tech the #11 spot on its list of the "25 Most Underrated Colleges in America."

These rankings should become increasingly important as more Americans seek assurance they'll receive a positive return on their education investment. With the rising cost of college and ballooning student loan debt, not every college can be considered a good deal. These lists help the discriminating consumer make a smart, informed choice. Congratulations Louisiana Tech!

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Business Insider has developed a list of the most underrated schools in America, and Louisiana Tech has made the list. The publication used two rankings, U.S. News & World Report's ranking of the best colleges and Payscale's mid-career salary rank, to develop their list. ***Business Insider, 06.19.13***

Louisiana Higher Education News

- A building boom is about to commence at community and technical colleges around the state. Senate Bill 204



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provides for millions in new construction spending. LCTCS President Joe May explains why he fought for the increased funding which is limited to his college system. [***The Advocate***](#), [***06.24.13***](#)



- The new President of LSU, F. King Alexander, started work on Monday in Baton Rouge. Advocate reporter Koran Addo visited with some of Alexander's former colleagues to get a feel for his leadership style. [***The Advocate***](#), [***06.24.13***](#)
- LSU Interim Chancellor Bill Jenkins retired for a second time last week. This article in The Advocate takes a look back at his many years of service to LSU. [***The Advocate***](#), [***06.20.13***](#)
- Southern University in Baton Rouge received some welcome news this week. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) has taken the school off probation. [***The Advocate***](#), [***06.21.13***](#)

National Higher Education News

- The federal government set up a database in January to help them catch college students engaged in grant and loan fraud. The program aims to stop those recipients who pocket the cash with no intention of going to school. According to the US Department of Education, students received \$829 million in "improper payments" last year. [***The Wall Street Journal***](#), [***06.24.13***](#)
- Six higher education associations have teamed up to develop a new methodology for calculating graduation rates. The new formula counts transfer students who graduate, which the current standard methodology does not include. [***The Chronicle of Higher Education***](#), [***06.24.13***](#)
- The National Council on Teacher Quality published a report last week that graded education programs at colleges around the nation. The report gave very few high marks, and the methodology used has been widely criticized. [***The Washington Post***](#), [***06.19.13***](#)

Correction: Last week we published a piece by Dayne Sherman that said changes to the higher education retirement plan were taking effect on July 1, 2013. The actual date is July 1, 2014, and many of the changes are not yet fully determined.

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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