

# Continuing Education

Volume 2 Number 51 - *The Weekly Newsletter of the SBBA* - December 10, 2013



## Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"Senior leadership doesn't prioritize higher education because we don't cut what we prioritize." -  
*Louisiana State Representative John Bel Edwards (D-Amite), Chairman of the Democratic Caucus*



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## Dear Johnette,

NWLA received two early Christmas presents at the Board of Regents meeting last week. Northwestern was granted approval to offer the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, and the Regents voted to have Shreveport's Bubba Rasberry serve a second year as Board Chairman. It is under Rasberry's tenure last year that our region was able to get approval for two terminal degrees desperately desired by students and needed by employers in NWLA. Bubba has been a great leader, and we are so pleased he was willing to take the job on for another year.

But we were also sad to hear at the Regents meeting that Higher Education Commissioner Jim Purcell will not seek to have his contract renewed when it expires this coming March. We at the SBBA wish him well and thank him for the time and efforts he spent working to grow higher education in the region.

Finally, mid-year cuts to higher education have become a regular occurrence since state funding of higher ed began plummeting in 2008, but this year, the story may change. We are hearing from leaders of the higher ed management boards that a cut is unlikely - at least that's what they are hearing from the Governor's office. Let's hope they are right.

## Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Northwestern State University has officially received approval to offer a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. Northwestern will be the only school in North Louisiana offering the terminal degree for nurse practitioners. ***Shreveport Times, 12.08.13***
- The Board of Regents has approved a plan for LSU Health Center in Shreveport to open a new center for those suffering from strokes, heart attacks and cardiovascular disease. LSU researcher Chris Kevil told The Times, "We can bring together researchers and clinicians in a way we weren't able to do before." ***Shreveport Times, 12.05.13***
- The Noel Foundation Board of Directors has announced they plan to fund 35 scholarships to LSUS beginning in fall 2014. Twenty of the scholarships will be dedicated to transfer students from BPCC and SUSLA. ***Shreveport***

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## Louisiana Higher Education News

- According to the American Association of Colleges and Universities, Louisiana cut funding to higher education more than any other state this year, slashing the budget 17.6%. West Virginia was ranked second, cutting higher ed just 8.9%. **NOLA.com, 12.05.13**
- Louisiana's Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell has announced he will not seek renewal of his contract when it expires in March of 2014. Purcell was recently a finalist for the top higher education job in Florida but was passed over for an internal candidate. **NOLA.com, 12.05.13**
- The VP of Finance for the UL System is concerned that colleges may run out of money and not be able to make payroll if state monies don't start coming in faster. One possible solution would be to borrow funds until one-time monies used to fund higher education materialize later in the fiscal year. **The Times, 12.09.13**



## National Higher Education News

- The unemployment gap is widening between those with college degrees and those with only a high school diploma. As of this month, unemployment for college graduates is 3.4% compared to 7.3% for those have no post-secondary training. **Wall Street Journal, 12.06.13**

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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