

Continuing Education

Volume 3 Number 2 - *The Weekly Newsletter of the SBBA* - January 14, 2014



Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"We now have more college graduates working in retail than soldiers in the U.S. Army, and more janitors with bachelor's degrees than chemists. In 1970, less than 1% of taxi drivers had college degrees. Four decades later, more than 15% do." - *Richard Vedder and Christopher Denhart in the Wall Street Journal*



Quick Links

Colleges and

Dear Johnette,

The Louisiana Community and Technical College Board is expected to have a new system President hired in just about a month. According to a story in the Alexandria Town-Talk, the board will begin interviewing candidates in two weeks to replace Joe May, the former President who took a job as head of the Dallas Community College System in December. The Board is reportedly looking for someone who will take over the job without "missing a beat."

Northwestern was recently ranked first among Louisiana's public universities in online degree programs. U.S. News & World Report ranked the top 200 schools in the nation, and Northwestern came in at 108th. The University of Louisiana at Monroe also made the list, coming in at 160th.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Dr. Karen Soul, who has been serving as the Vice Provost at Centenary College, has been named Interim Provost and Dean of Centenary College. Soul has been with Centenary since 2003. [*Centenary Website, 01.10.14*](#)
- During the uproar last fall around the Grambling football team missing the game against Jackson State, the Reverend Jesse Jackson promised to visit the Grambling campus as a show of support for the struggling school. Although he has yet to come, Grambling President Frank Pogue says they are working on a date. "He hasn't forgotten us and his commitment," said Grambling Spokesperson Will Sutton. [*Monroe News-Star, 01.08.14*](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

- U.S. News and World Report released a national ranking last week of online degree programs, and only four Louisiana colleges cracked the Top 200. Northwestern ranked 108th, the highest among public colleges in the state. LSU in Baton Rouge did not make the



Governing Boards

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- list. [The Advocate, 01.08.14](#)
- State Treasurer John Kennedy has put forth a plan that would reduce consulting contracts by 10% at each state agency and divert the savings to higher education. Kennedy argued, "I'm not saying that all of these consulting contracts are bad. I'm asking what's more important, some of these consultants, or our universities." [The Advocate, 01.09.14](#)
 - The search is on to find a new head of Louisiana's Community and Technical College System. Joe May, who served in the position for seven years, took a job in Dallas last month. The board has said the search for a replacement will be "transparent." [Alexandria Town-Talk, 01.13.14](#)

National Higher Education News

- The Director of the Center for College Affordability and Productivity says total college enrollment has fallen 1.5% since 2012 because "the benefits of a degree are declining while costs rise." [The Wall Street Journal, 01.10.14](#)
- According to Mary Willingham, an academic advisor and researcher at UNC-Chapel Hill, approximately 60% of the school's athletes read between a 4th and 8th grade level. Since sharing the results of her study with CNN, Willingham has received four death threats along with "more than 30 other alarming messages." UNC, meanwhile, is saying they do not believe her research although they reportedly have yet to see the data. [The Wire, 01.10.14](#)

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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