

## Continuing Education

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### Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"If a Fortune 500 company said they were laying off 3,000 jobs, I'm sure the Governor and Stephen Moret and regional legislators would come together and find a way to come up with the money to save the jobs." - *Joshua Stockley, ULM Political Science*

### Dear Johnette,

The 2014 session of the Louisiana Legislature kicked off today and education bills are front and center. It appears everyone, even Governor Jindal, has concluded we must quit slashing higher education funding if we are to produce the skilled workforce needed for the new jobs headed to the state.

Legislators are also showing signs of readiness to deal with the ballooning TOPS budget. House Speaker Chuck Kleckley, R - Lake Charles, has introduced legislation to raise the eligibility requirements to receive the TOPS award. Currently students with a 2.5 GPA and 20 on the ACT can receive the award. Kleckley would gradually increase the minimal requirement to receive TOPS to a 3.0 GPA with a 24 cumulative average on the ACT.

And congratulations to Larry Clark, who was selected by LSU President F. King Alexander to serve as Chancellor of LSU Shreveport. Clark is currently serving as Dean of the Cameron School of Business at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Clark previously served as the Dean of the College of Business at LSUS from 1985 to 1994.

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Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

Professor,  
referring to the  
loss of 3000 jobs  
in higher education  
due to \$700 million  
in cuts since 2008.



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- Louisiana Tech will be offering its MBA program 100% online beginning this fall. The program is designed to serve those who cannot attend classes in Ruston and was tailored for those serving in the military. "Military students at Barksdale Air Force Base and those stationed around the world will find the flexibility of Louisiana Tech University's online MBA program very attractive," said Monty Parker, Director of Tech's Barksdale Programs. [\*\*\*The Monroe News-Star, 03.02.14\*\*\*](#)
- Northwestern State University has received approval from the Board of Regents to offer a post Master's Certificate in Global Security and Intelligence. It's an 18-hour credit program, and it's scheduled to start this fall. [\*\*\*KNOE-TV, 03.10.14\*\*\*](#)

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## Louisiana Higher Education News

- The Louisiana Legislature appears poised to at least consider changes to the popular TOPS program. The proposed changes are driven by the fact the TOPS budget has ballooned 253% since 1998 and is eating up dollars that would otherwise fund colleges around the state. [\*\*\*NOLA.com, 03.07.14\*\*\*](#)
- The trouble-plagued Louisiana College in Alexandria is back in the news for sending papers with forged signatures to SACS, the school's accrediting agency. Louisiana College's accreditation was only recently reaffirmed by SACS after the school was put on warning status for two years. SACS officials have not yet commented on the issue. [\*\*\*Shreveport Times, 03.04.14\*\*\*](#)
- At a recent meeting of the Conference of Louisiana Colleges and Universities, three political science professors from around the state offered harsh criticism regarding the state's treatment of higher education. [\*\*\*The Advocate, 03.10.14\*\*\*](#)

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## National Higher Education News

- A report released by the Chronicle of Higher Education

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looks at drops in state funding at institutions around the country. In Louisiana, Nicholls State topped the pack with the largest drop in share of revenue coming from state funds with the University of New Orleans having the smallest drop. ***The Chronicle of Higher Education, 03.03.14***

- A workforce study comparing employment among college graduates since 1992 found that current college graduates are more likely to be unemployed one year after graduation than those who graduated in the early 2000s. For those finding jobs, their wages are lower. ***U.S. Department of Education, 03.14***
- A major revamp is underway for the SAT college admissions test. The College Board is dumping the essay requirement, easing up on the difficulty of the vocabulary portion, and no longer penalizing students for wrong answers. The new test goes on line in 2016. ***The Washington Post, 03.05.14***

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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***

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*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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