


CONVERSATIONS

NSU's Randy Webb has been a visionary leader

For the last 18 years, Northwestern State University in Natchitoches has been led by one of Louisiana's most talented, committed and visionary leaders in higher education. Before retiring this fall, Randy Webb will also be the longest serving President at NSU.

Webb has a long list of accomplishments we can all celebrate. He built one of the finest nursing programs in the country, with his master's degree in nursing recognized among the Top 100 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. He was also arguably the first in the state to see the need to expand online education. Today, NSU has the largest distance learning network of any college in Louisiana, offering 34 accredited degrees that can be obtained through the Internet and compressed video.

But what the students will most likely remember is the interest Webb took in each of them. When I attended a play at NSU with Webb last fall, I was simply amazed at how well he and his wife Brenda knew each student in the performance. It was then that I immediately understood the affection the students have for him.

We at the Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher education wish him and Brenda all the best, and we join the community in thanking him for the many years he devoted to educating students throughout our region.

— **Johnette Magner**

executive director, Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher Education