

## Continuing Education

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### Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"I am not going to be engaged in work here (this year). I've got to get into Cardiac rehab and rest.

This year I'm available 24-7 for consultation and advising for the board. I work for the board." - *Joe Aguillard, recently fired President of Louisiana College, commenting on how he will spend his one-year, paid sabbatical.*



### Quick Links

Colleges and

**Dear Johnette,**

The Lumina Foundation has both good news and bad news this week for the state of Louisiana. The good news is that more of Louisiana's working adults have a college degree than last year. We jumped from 27.9% to 29.1%. The bad news is that the rest of the nation is still far ahead of us with a national average of 39.4%; Louisiana is ranked 49th among all states with West Virginia ranked last. [Click here to see the full Lumina study](#)

To increase our percentage of adults with a college degree, we must first put more students in the higher education pipeline by increasing our number of high school graduates. According to statistics released Monday by some education watchdog groups, our nation reached an 80% graduation rate in 2012 with the largest gains coming from the Hispanic and African American populations. Louisiana's graduation rate is improving, but it still lags behind the national average with just 72.3% receiving a diploma in 2012. A further breakdown shows Bossier Parish came in ahead of the state average at 74.4% but Caddo Parish is trailing at just 63.4%. [For the full story click here.](#)

### Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- With the help of Bossier Parish Community College, Louisiana Tech has launched a new program called "Bridge to Bulldogs" for students who just barely missed the ACT minimum for admission to Tech. Students who successfully complete a 5-week summer session through BPCC will then gain automatic admission to Tech. Pamela Ford, Tech's Dean of Enrollment Management, said, "On a first-come, first-served basis, we will accept up to 100 students in the program this summer." [Shreveport Times, 04.29.14](#)
- State Treasurer John Kennedy was in Shreveport last week pushing House Bill 142, which would divert more than \$500 million to higher education by forcing all state agencies to cut consulting contracts by 10%. "We paid \$94,000 to an Oakland, California, consultant to come in and analyze how our children play at recess and lunch periods. I consider that a total waste of money," Kennedy said. [KTAL-TV6, 04.23.14](#)

## Governing Boards

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## Louisiana Higher Education News

- As many predicted, the one-time money expected to help fund higher education is not materializing on time, so the Governor's office has asked the State Treasurer to temporarily borrow \$40 million from other funds to cover the costs for higher education next month. Otherwise, colleges will not receive their money from the state needed to sustain their operations. ***The Advocate, 04.29.14***
- Louisiana College in Pineville is planning for a new year with Interim President Argile Smith. "I'm staring at the fall semester making sure students and teachers are there," Smith said. ***Alexandria Town-Talk, 04.29.14***
- The search is on for new leadership at both Northwestern and Grambling. Committees have been appointed and the first meetings are set for May 7th and 8th. ***UL System Website, 04.23.14***

## National Higher Education News

- The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld a Michigan Constitutional Amendment that bars state colleges from considering race in the admissions process. Some believe this could open the door to more states abandoning race as a factor in admissions. ***The Washington Post, 04.22.14***

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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