



Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"Governor Jindal was a passionate supporter before he was against it."
- U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan on Jindal's decision to withdraw from Common Core



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Dear Johnette,

Like Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*, Louisiana has its own tale of two flagships.

On the home page of The Advocate website, viewers can see the progress underway to expand Tiger Stadium. The expansion adds 8000 seats, with more than 3500 in suites. Eddie Nunez, the Associate Athletic Director, paints a picture of the soon-to-be finished product, which costs around \$80 million, when he says the exterior of the new south end zone expansion will be illuminated in purple and gold lighting in a way that will "show off the architecture." [To read more about the expansion click here.](#)

But just ten miles away at Southern University in Baton Rouge, the story is quite different. A main artery through the campus needed to get students to residence halls has collapsed, and the campus has not even the \$300,000 needed to repair it. Today Governor Jindal ordered the State Department of Transportation to repair the road, which has been unusable for a month. The funding will come from a special state fund for emergency repairs. [For more on Southern Baton Rouge Click Here.](#)

While it has been made clear that Louisiana's low tuition and greatly diminished state funding for higher education have created financial hardships for all schools in the state, it is also clear some schools have fared much better than others in recent years, and the key for them has largely been access to private dollars.

This tale of two flagships should be a warning to all Louisiana communities and alumni about the role they must play moving forward. Without their financial support, many of our schools in this state simply will not thrive, or perhaps even survive, in the coming years.

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

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- The LSU Medical School in Shreveport announced today that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded LSU Professor Dr. Dennis J. O'Callaghan a \$4.82 million grant. The money will be used to expand the Center for Molecular and Tumor Virology. ***KTBS, 07.22.14***

Louisiana Higher Education News

- While below the national average of \$29,400, nearly half of Louisiana's 2012 college have student loans and the average loan is \$22,789. According to the U.S. Department of Education, approximately 1 in 10 graduates in Louisiana default on their loans within two years of entering the repayment period. ***The Advocate, 07.22.14***
- Seventeen state lawmakers led by Representative Brett Geymann (R-Lake Charles) have filed suit alleging the state's Department of Education failed to follow the Administrative Procedures Act. It is the latest effort among Common Core opponents to block implementation of and testing related to the standards. ***The Advocate, 07.22.14***
- Supporters of Common Core standards have now also filed suit, and they are claiming Governor Jindal's efforts to derail the standards are both illegal and unconstitutional. Neither the BESE Board nor the Department of Education is a party to the lawsuit. ***The Times, 07.22.14***

National Higher Education News

- The Washington Post Editorial Board has commended Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, for agreeing to move confederate flags from the chapel named for General Robert E. Lee. ***Washington Post, 07.22.14***

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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