



Shreveport-Bossier
Business Alliance
For Higher Education

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"We do not know at this point whether the extra flexibility available through financial exigency will be needed, but it is one option that is under consideration. Unfortunately, the recent enrollment drop has magnified the problem." - *UL System President Dr. Sandra Woodley on the financial problems plaguing Grambling State University.*

Dear Johnette,

Louisiana's Revenue Estimating Conference announced late last week that the state must make \$171 million in midyear cuts for the budget to balance at the end of the fiscal year in June 2015. Although there was not a midyear cut last year, there have been cuts in six of the seven years that Governor Jindal has been in office.

But unlike previous years, the Jindal administration is not expected to look to higher education to take the brunt of the cuts. Commissioner of Administration Kristy Nichols says the cuts will be spread among more parties. "We are going to make sure we sustain our investment in higher education," Nichols said.

The plan for the cuts could come as early as this Friday. ***[For more on the cuts click here.](#)***

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Northwest Louisiana Technical College has announced plans to build a \$2.5 million workforce development center on the school's Minden campus. Construction is expected to begin in March. ***[NWLTC.edu, 11.14.14](#)***

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Grambling Interim President Dr. Cynthia Warrick is expected to submit her plan this week for how she will address the \$3.7 million deficit largely due to a drop in enrollment this fall. The board reportedly may declare financial exigency which would provide greater latitude for employee layoffs. ***[Monroe News Star, 11.13.14](#)***
- An LSU System audit of the LSU Alumni Association has yet to be released to the public, but a letter from the auditor shows they found "**no evidence**" of irregularities or misspent funds." Alumni Association President Cliff



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Vannoy was quite pleased saying, "It is the dawn of a new era in the history of the association." ***The Advocate, 11.14.14***

- Tulane University just received a gift in the amount of \$15 million from the Taylor Foundation to establish the Phyllis M. Taylor Center for Social Innovation and Design Thinking. Taylor is also on the Board of Trustees for Tulane. ***NOLA.com, 11.18.14***

National Higher Education News

- According to a story in the Wall Street Journal, college students are increasingly using federal loans to cover the costs of remedial courses, which are often required by colleges but do not count toward a college degree. The Journal writes that this practice is occurring "despite mounting evidence the courses are ineffective and may contribute to higher dropout rates." ***Wall Street Journal, 11.18.14***
- Borrowing for college has dropped again this year for the third year in a row. The federal government attributes this year's eight percent decline to fewer students attending for-profit colleges, where loan amounts and default rates are both higher. ***Wall Street Journal, 11.13.14***

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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