

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"Many of these companies weathered the recession and did more with less, so they are not sympathetic to government or higher education having to do the same thing. And they are not interested in paying more taxes to bail out anyone." - *Rolphe McCollister, publisher of the Baton Rouge Business Report and member of the LSU Board of Supervisors, on the Governor's proposed funding cuts to higher education.*

Dear Johnette,

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation has its sights set on a health district that it is patterning after Texas Medical Center in Houston. The district would also include a medical school.

In a presentation last week, BRAF Executive VP John Spain said, "It is time for a full-blown medical school here, but not at the expense of New Orleans and Shreveport. This is not just a four-year medical school we are talking about here. It's so much more."

Spain says the medical school would specialize in joint degree programs, so students could earn a second degree in areas such as law, business and engineering.

Spain puts the timeline for parts of the health district at three to five years but acknowledges it will take much longer than that before Baton Rouge has a medical school. **[To read more on the plan for the health district, click here.](#)**

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Louisiana Tech has done it again! Tech landed the top spot in the state for Payscale.com's ranking of schools according to return on investment. Tech also ranked #2 in the nation for in-state engineering majors living on campus. **[Shreveport Times, 03.09.15](#)**

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Only about one third of the \$40 million in WISE funds awarded last year has actually made it to college campuses. That's because much of the money comes from a federal hurricane recovery fund with major restrictions. UL System President Sandra Woodley told The Advocate, "We're struggling a little bit with the source of funds. We don't even know if the plans we put



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together allow us to use those funds." ***The Advocate, 03.04.15***

- The Louisiana College Board of Trustees has selected Rick Brewer to serve as the ninth President of Louisiana College. Brewer comes to Louisiana from Charleston Southern University where he was Vice President of Student Affairs and Athletics. Brewer says his top goal is to "Get off probation and get accredited." ***Alexandria Town Talk, 03.06.15***
- The Southern University System has begun its search for a new head of both the System and Baton Rouge campus. The positions were combined last month to save money in the coming year. State government funds to the system may be cut as much as 80% this session. ***The Advocate, 03.06.15***

National Higher Education News

- The news that Sweet Briar College in Virginia is closing its doors forever in August has left many questioning the future of other all-female private colleges. Pamela Fox, the President of neighboring Mary Baldwin College, says Sweet Briar's closure should not be feared as the beginning of a slew of closures. ***Washington Post, 03.06.15***

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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SBBA | 400 Edwards Street | Shreveport | LA | 71101