

Summit for Louisiana colleges and universities held downtown Shreveport

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CADDOPARADOSSIER [✉ cwhitman@ktbs.com](mailto:cwhitman@ktbs.com) local summit put higher education in the spotlight Tuesday.

With million dollars in budget cuts looming for colleges and universities, community leaders and educators discussed some of the challenges ahead.

Deep state funding cuts have had major consequences for public colleges and universities across Louisiana.

Now, more mounting concerns as the state faces cuts in the amount of \$131 M in mid-year budgets cuts alone.

That was part of a discussion during a packed education summit held at the Shreveport-Bossier Chamber of Commerce.


The event was sponsored by the Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher Education. "Not only are we speaking about the mid-year cuts, but as all my colleagues would probably attest to the fact that in keeping with the projected budget deficit for the new year also," commented Dr. Ray Belton, Chancellor Southern University System.

The two hour event brought together representatives from two-year colleges, universities and technical schools as well as lawmakers, to discuss concerns and possible solutions to spending in the state.

Worry over training a college educated workforce for the growing share of future jobs, amid a possible decrease in some student services were on the minds of many. But, many also remained optimistic about the direction of the John Bel Edwards administration.

Senator robert adley

"The Jindal administration, he spent eight years trying to buy his way into prosperity creating more give aways for individuals and business we found that didn't work. When we look at the top two corporations in Louisiana to see how much they pay in income taxes, they paid zero and we paid them \$2.6 billion. Governor Edwards is expected to call a special session in February to address the budget crisis.



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