

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"I'll reserve comment until after that meeting other than saying I believe it's important to fund all of the safety net hospitals to a level in which all of the services can be continued," UH Board Chairman Steve Skrivanos on his upcoming meeting Tuesday with the Governor to discuss major cuts to LSU's private partner hospitals currently included in the budget.



Quick Links

Greetings!

The House Appropriations Committee passed their own version of the budget this afternoon, and it is vastly different from the one proposed by the Governor weeks ago. Their budget fully funds the TOPS program, primarily by eliminating the Office of the Inspector General and imposing major funding cuts to private partners who operate the state's safety-net hospitals.

Under the Governor's initial proposal, the bulk of the funding cuts would have applied to only four hospitals, and it would likely have resulted in their closing. The House plan spreads the cuts across all of the state hospitals.

Operators of the state hospitals are reportedly meeting with the Governor on Tuesday. Earlier this year, they indicated that massive state funding cuts would likely lead to their walking away from the contracts to operate the hospitals for the state. **[For more on the House Appropriations Committee Budget click here.](#)**

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- ExxonMobil has donated more than \$130,000 to Louisiana Tech to support engineering and science education. The gift comes from Exxon's Educational Matching Gift Program. "Support from corporate partners like Exxon Mobil is essential to helping us produce graduates with the technical and leadership skills that industry demands," said Tech Dean Dr. Hisham Hegab. **[Monroe News-Star, 06.09.16](#)**

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Governor John Bel Edwards is expected to announce four new appointments to the LSU Board of Supervisors sometime next month. Among the four current members with expiring terms is Ray Lasseigne of Bossier City. **[The Advocate, 05.06.16](#)**
- A bill that would have given college and university systems the power to raise tuition without legislative approval has died in the Louisiana House of Representatives. State Representative Barbara Norton was among the opponents of the legislation. "Are you thinking about the needs of the

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families today...or are you just thinking about the fact that universities can raise tuition rates? It's a bad bill. I'm going to vote against it." ***Alexandria Town-Talk, 05.09.16***

- The Advocate Editorial Board is encouraging lawmakers to determine higher education funding right now to bring financial certainty to the campuses. "Answers one way, or another, ought to be generated by the state's leadership," they wrote. ***The Advocate, 05.09.16***

National Higher Education News

- Researchers at the Federal Reserve just released some surprising data regarding college debt and home ownership. According to Brookings, "The striking gap in home ownership is not between college-educated people who did and did not borrow, but between those with and without a college education." ***Brookings.edu, 05.09.16***
- According to CBS Money Watch Reports, America's newest crop of college graduates on average owe the federal government more than \$37,000 in federal student loans. Only 30% of 2016 graduates completed their degree with no debt. ***NOLA.com, 05.09.16***

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***

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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
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