

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"The gimmick of front-loading TOPS gave students and parents false hope for the future. I'm asking the legislature to work with me, so that Louisiana's students are not left to shoulder the burden of our state's financial problems."
- Governor John Bel Edwards on the announced cuts to TOPS this spring.



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Just one week after voters denied colleges and universities the ability to set their own tuition, higher education in Louisiana received an even more devastating blow. The Governor's office announced on Monday that TOPS funding will be cut approximately 60% for the spring semester. ***[For more on the cuts click here.](#)***

This announcement has left colleges, parents and students scrambling as they try to determine how to handle this loss of state dollars beginning in January. So far, Northwestern State University and Centenary College have both said they intend to absorb the cuts, but not all schools in the region are able to do that. Many schools are working with students on a case-by-case basis. The hardest hit school in the state appears to be LSU in Baton Rouge, where students who once got a free ride on tuition will now have to fork over \$2172. ***[To see how the cuts impact each college click here.](#)***

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- CSRA Integrated Technology cut the ribbon on their new facility in Bossier City on Tuesday. CSRA's education partners - Louisiana Tech, Northwestern, and BPC - were noted several times as a key reason the company chose to locate operations in NWLA. Governor John Bel Edwards said at the event, "The dream was really rather simple - let's build a foundation for the future. Let's make technology that foundation and increase our educational capacity to attract technology jobs." ***[Shreveport Times, 11.16.16](#)***
- Interim Chancellor Dr. G.E. Ghali was named permanent Chancellor of LSUHSC-Shreveport last week during a visit to Shreveport from LSU President F. King Alexander. "He's already accomplished a great deal during a short period of time in perhaps the most adverse set of circumstances that LSU has ever faced," Alexander said. ***[Shreveport Times, 11.12.16](#)***
- Northwestern State University's Nurse Practitioner program has been named the 7th best in the nation by [guidetoonlineschools.com](#). "Our students know a national ranking adds value to their degree. Ultimately, this allows us to positively impact healthcare by producing more and more quality providers," said Dr. Connie Hale of Northwestern's School of Nursing. ***[Natchitoches Times, 11.16.16](#)***
- Louisiana Tech has a new scholarship named in honor of

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the school's first African-American students. James Earl Potts and Bertha Bradford-Robinson enrolled at Tech in the spring of 1965. The scholarship will be used to support minorities currently attending the school. **[KNOE-TV8, 11.14.16](#)**

- LSUS has named a new Dean of the Noel Memorial Library. Brian Sherman has worked at the library for 13 years and has served as Interim Dean since 2015. **[LSUS.edu, 11.10.16](#)**

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Supporters of Amendment #2, which would have given tuition authority to the higher education systems, are regrouping after disappointing election results last week. Voters opposed the amendment 57 - 43 percent. Higher Ed Commissioner Joe Rallo told the Advocate, "If they voted no to allowing institutions to raise tuition, they were also saying they expect the Legislature to fund public education." **[The Advocate, 11.10.16](#)**
- In anticipation of a cut in TOPS funding this spring, the President of the University of New Orleans initiated a new financial strategy this fall where the school pushed all students eligible for federal aid to apply and thus allow the school to save TOPS dollars. As a result, UNO has announced it is able to cover this spring's TOPS shortfall for all of their students. "I'm proud. It was strategic. It would be very troubling to leave a large number of students with this bill," said UNO President John Nicklow. **[NOLA.com, 11.16.16](#)**

National Higher Education News

- President-elect Donald Trump has announced his plan to address the growing student debt problem. Under Trump's plan, loan repayment would be capped at 12.5% a year for 15 years. "If borrowers work hard and make their full payments for 15 years, we'll let them get on with their lives," Trump said. **[Washington Post, 11.13.16](#)**

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***

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

