

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"When it comes to our workforce, we need IT workers.

As we get those jobs, we'll be able to produce more.

As we produce more, we can put out more bids and bring more jobs here. We have a commitment for 12 years and an option for another 12 years. That's a generation - a generation of change and diversification to our economy." -

*Mimi Hedgcock,
Senior Principal,
External Affairs,
CSRA.*



For the second year in a row, Bossier Parish Community College is a finalist for the highly prestigious Bellwether Award given by the Community College Futures Assembly. A team from BPCC will present at the Assembly's conference on Monday and find out the following day if they received the grand prize.

BPCC is being recognized for its highly innovative and successful Open Campus Initiative which allows students to receive online instruction in math and English at no charge. The program was developed to provide additional assistance to students currently enrolled in math and English classes as well as serve as a preparatory program for those testing for college placement. For many students this program has helped them increase their placement score and thus avoid costly and time-consuming remedial coursework.

The program is not limited to BPCC students. In fact, the program's 30,000 students come from all 50 states and 189 foreign countries. [*Shreveport Times, 01.23.17*](#)

Local Higher Education News

- Dr. Suzanne Tinsley, an LSUHSC physical therapist with a specialty in neurology, has been awarded the Charles Richard Parks Endowed Professorship in Neurological Rehabilitation. Parks, who donated \$100,000 for the professorship, was formerly a patient of Dr. Tinsley following a stroke. "Through the years, the physical therapists, especially Dr. Suzanne Tinsley, have never given up on me. My hope is that this professorship will support their important work for many years to come and ultimately help other people like me," Parks said. [*Shreveport Times, 01.19.17*](#)
- Representatives of the region's tech industry recently said higher education partnerships are critical to the growth of their sector. These comments were made last week during the Shreveport Chamber's "What Happening" breakfast that included panelists from Cyber Innovation, Global Strike, and CSRA. [*Bossier Press Tribune, 01.19.17*](#)
- Two BPCC students have been named among the Top 5 debaters in the country. The International Public Debate Association named BPCC's Dominick Mercer #2 and Steve Garcia #4. Both are ranked in the Novice Division. [*Bossier Press Tribune, 01.23.17*](#)
- Shreveporter David A. Barlow has been named Chairman

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of the Centenary College Board of Trustees. Barlow is a 1992 graduate of Centenary College and currently serves as President of Sklar Exploration Company. [***Shreveport Times, 01.22.17***](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Although TOPS cuts did not adversely affect enrollment at LSU in Baton Rouge this spring, LSU President King Alexander is worried students may transfer out this fall if the TOPS cut remains. "The big question mark for us is TOPS. What does it mean next fall?" [***Greater Baton Rouge Business Report, 01.18.17***](#)
- The Southern University Alumni Federation is developing a plan for a new multi-use complex in Baton Rouge. The project may include space for a hotel, restaurant, retail, and student housing. "The idea is this project could be one of hopefully several that would spark development on campus and ultimately spark development in the north Baton Rouge area," said Federation President Preston Castille. [***Greater Baton Rouge Business Report, 01.19.17***](#)

National Higher Education News

- At 38 colleges across the country, there are more students from families in the top 1% income bracket than there are students from the entire bottom 60% income bracket. Washington and Lee tops the list with 21% of their students coming from families with annual earnings in excess of \$630,000. [***New York Times, 01.23.17***](#)
- Americans over the age of 60 now hold more than \$66 billion in student loan debt because they signed for a loan they mistakenly assumed the student could repay upon graduation. "What that means is that parents and grandparents are unwittingly taking on their debt, and that's a position a lot of people just weren't expecting to be in," said Mark Stinson with FAI Wealth Management. [***Washington Post, 01.17.17***](#)
- Non-traditional student enrollment is increasing twice as fast as traditional student enrollment, so understanding the needs of the non-traditional population has become increasingly important. According to a recent study, their top concern is money. Only 15% of non-traditional students say they are financially secure. [***Evolution.com, 01.17.17***](#)

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*