

# Continuing Education

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## Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"I think our next budget is not going to be any prettier than this year's. Things are not good." -  
*Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne.*



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The University of Louisiana Board of Supervisors is expected to vote on Thursday to name Dr. Chris Maggio as the Acting President of Northwestern State University. Maggio has been with Northwestern since 1988 and is currently serving as the Vice President of Student Experience. Maggio will replace Dr. Jim Henderson who was recently selected to head up the UL System. For more information on other likely appointments at Northwestern [click here](#).

Former UL Board Chairman and SBBA Board Member Michael H. Woods has been selected to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. SACS is the regional accreditation body for colleges and universities in the South. Congratulations Mike!

## Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Northwestern has implemented a competency-based degree program, which is a new education model that allows students to progress at their own pace. When students demonstrate mastery of material, they are able to move on to the next unit. The new offering is for students studying computer information systems. [Baton Rouge Business Report, 12.02.16](#)
- During a recent interview with the Monroe News-Star Editorial Board, Louisiana Tech President Les Guice discussed the University's plans to grow partnerships with the business community as well as work to keep high academic standards. He also talked about Tech's efforts to prepare students for a diversified workforce. [Monroe News-Star, 12.01.16](#)

## Louisiana Higher Education News

- LSU CFO Dan Layzell will be serving as Interim President of the LSU Foundation starting in January. Current Foundation President Stephen Moret announced last week he has accepted a new job in Virginia. Layzell's appointment signals President King Alexander's desire to bring the foundation further under the LSU umbrella. "The President had a conversation with the Foundation Board, and they were in full agreement that we need a more integrated relationship," Layzell said. [Baton Rouge Business](#)

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- [Report, 12.02.16](#)
- Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne is telling lawmakers to prepare for a mid-year cut of up to \$600 million. The state has a \$313 million shortfall from last fiscal year, and the current year's deficit could reach another \$300 million by January. Governor Edwards' Chief of Staff Ben Nevers told House Budget leaders, "I know many people thought we would have more money than we needed right now. That just hasn't happened." ***[The Advocate, 12.07.16](#)***
  - LSU leadership is remaining hopeful that TOPS funding will be restored during the next legislative session. Otherwise, the state is at risk of a "brain drain" in the coming years. "By law TOPS will remain at current levels and some lawmakers have indicated an interest in restoring TOPS funding," said LSU President King Alexander. "Taxpayers have invested thousands of dollars in each child's education, and I'm sure lawmakers don't want to see those investments go to other states due to a lack of scholarships." ***[LSUNOW, 12.06.16](#)***

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## National Higher Education News

- The number of U.S. high school graduates is expected to decline next year by 2.3%, leaving colleges to draw from a smaller crop of prospects. In addition, a larger percentage of graduates are expected to be lower-income and nonwhite. "Well-prepared, well-resourced full-pay students: Those are the students institutions want because they help them meet their bottom line. But there are fewer and fewer of those students as a percentage of the total," said Joe Garcia, President of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. ***[Hechinger Report, 12.06.16](#)***
- U.S. Representative Tom Reed, who is also Vice Chairman of the Trump Transition Team, is pushing for new rules regarding college endowments of more than \$1 billion. He wants 25% of new gifts to these tax-exempt endowments to be put toward student aid for middle class families. "It's time to disrupt this area and really put the attention necessary to it to get the costs going in the right direction, and that is down," Reed said. ***[NOLA.com, 12.05.16](#)***
- The For-Profit College Industry is expecting a much warmer reception from the Trump administration starting in January. Under President Obama, for-profit colleges have struggled, with some even closing, as a result of Obama Administration regulations. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich also expects policy changes. "I expect them to be dramatically modified," he said, "They were impossible to administer and they simply set up rules designed to force schools into bankruptcy." ***[The Associated Press, 11.30.16](#)***

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For more information on higher education in Northwest Louisiana, please visit our website at [www.sbba4he.org](http://www.sbba4he.org)

Sincerely,

**Johnette Magner, Ph.D., Executive Director**  
**Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher Education**

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*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](mailto:jmagner@sbba4he.org)*