

Continuing Education

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Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"There will be students who drop out. We don't know how many, but it will probably be the students with the most need." - *UL System Interim President Dr. Dan Reneau on what he expects to happen when TOPS is cut 60% for the spring semester.*

In just a few short weeks, Louisiana students will be returning to college and many will be footing a far greater share of the tuition bill than they have before. With a 60% cut this spring in TOPS payments, students will pay anywhere from hundreds of dollars at community colleges to \$2172 more in tuition at LSU. To receive a TOPS award, Louisiana students must graduate from high school with a 2.5 GPA and receive a score of at least 20 on the ACT. [**The Advocate, 12.16.16**](#)

Meanwhile, the Louisiana Board of Regents may be voting in the coming months on another change to the TOPS program that would require students to complete 30 credit hours a year to maintain their scholarship instead of the current requirement of 24 hours. Students would have the option of increasing their semester load to 15 hours or taking an additional 6 hours over the summer. This change would not require legislative approval. Higher Education Commissioner Dr. Joseph Rallo is pushing for this change because it would force students to take what is needed to graduate in four years. [**NOLA.com, 12.26.16**](#)

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Northwestern State University athletes set a record off the field this year. Collectively, they earned an average 3.13 GPA this fall, which is the highest in Demon history. The Lady Demon Tennis Team led the pack with the highest GPA at 3.76 followed by the Lady Demon Softball Team at 3.49. [**Natchitoches Parish Journal, 12.28.16**](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

- Lawmakers' plan to cover the previous year's deficit of \$313 million includes an \$11.9 million cut to higher education. Most of the funds covering the shortfall are coming from one-time pots of money and delays in payments to health care providers. Following a hearing, Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne said, "This only helps [higher education] out now. We're going to either have to find the money or they are going to have to take some big cuts in a few months." [**The Advocate, 12.16.176**](#)
- LCTCS System President Dr. Monty Sullivan will not be moving to Tennessee to assume the job of Chancellor of

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the Tennessee Board of Regents. Sullivan was one of three finalists for the job which was given to an in-state college President last week. [Columbia Daily Herald, 12.22.16](#)

- The Louisiana Legislative Auditor is reporting that Delgado Community College has lost \$1.36 million in property over the last 3 years, and almost half of it includes computers and other technology. The audit further states, "There is risk that sensitive information could be improperly recovered from missing computers." [NOLA.com, 12.20.16](#)

National Higher Education News

- A white paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research finds that state cuts in funding to higher education have driven major universities to accept more foreign students because they bring more dollars through out-of-state tuition. According to the Bureau's data, a 10% cut in state funding leads to a 12 to 17% increase in international student enrollment. [Inside HigherEd, 12.27.16](#)
- To meet growing demand for high-skilled workers, states around the country are initiating campaigns to encourage college dropouts to return to college. According to the Georgetown University Center for Education and Workforce, nearly 37 million adults have some college credits but no degree. [Wall Street Journal, 12.26.16](#)

For more information on higher education in Northwest Louisiana, please visit our website at www.sba4he.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@sba4he.org