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## **LOUISIANA COLLEGE ENROLLMENT DOWN SLIGHTLY**

**BATON ROUGE** -- Preliminary figures for the fall semester at Louisiana's public colleges and universities show a slight dip in student enrollment when compared to last year's all-time high number of students attending college.

Figures released today by the Board of Regents are preliminary 14-day-class enrollment numbers reported by each college and university. Final enrollment reports will not be available until later this fall.

"Enrollment is stable," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "Last year 176,584 student attended our colleges and universities. This year preliminary figures show enrollment to be 175,484 or approximately one-half of 1 percent lower than last year. But these are only preliminary figures, and it is much too early to draw conclusions or conjecture why enrollment is up at some schools or down at others. It might be greater job opportunities in some areas or changing admissions requirements. Some schools, for example, have gone to selective admissions. We also noticed enrollment increases in the new community colleges that are now providing educational opportunities in historically undeserved areas."

A review of the preliminary enrollment report shows slight increases in the number of students attending the Southern University System and new Louisiana Community and Technical College System. Enrollment in the Southern University System was up from 14,458 in 1999 to 14,667 this fall. The Community and Technical College had a slight increase from 21,934 last year to 22,057 this semester. The LSU System was down from 59,899 last year to 59,697 this fall. Universities under the University of Louisiana System showed a total decrease of 1,230 students, or a drop from 80,293 in 1999 to 79,063.

Preliminary Fall 2000 headcount enrollment figures are attached.

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