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REGENTS SWEAR IN NEW MEMBERS, ELECT OFFICERS

BATON ROUGE, La. – The Board of Regents officially swore in four newly appointed members and one re-appointed member during their first official meeting of 2011. The members who were sworn in include:

Scott Ballard (Covington, LA-1st Congressional District) Co-President and Chief Financial Officer of WOW Café & Wingery Franchising Account; Chief Executive Officer of New Orleans Brew; and Chief Executive Officer, on the board of directors, and principle of PJ's Coffee.

Joe Wiley (Gonzales, LA-3rd Congressional District) Vice-President and General Counsel for the Excel Group, a company specializing in construction and maintenance. This is Wiley's 2nd appointment to the Board of Regents.

Chris Gorman (Shreveport, LA-4th Congressional District) Executive Vice-President of Tango Transport. Gorman received his B.A.A.S. degree in Computer Information Systems from the University of North Texas and attended the Harvard Executive MBA program in Boston, MA.

Joe Farr (Monroe, LA-5th Congressional District) Co-owner of Thomas & Farr Agency, Inc., the largest independent insurance agency in Northeast Louisiana. Farr will be appointed to serve as a representative of the 5th Congressional District, in accordance with the requirements of the Louisiana Constitution.

Ed Antie (Lafayette, LA-7th Congressional District) Founder of Louisiana Communications, a support facility to Motorola Communications and Electronics. Antie later sold Louisiana Communications and established Central Telephone Corporation. While operating Central Telephone he organized Network USA, a provider of specialized transmission facilities and digital communications circuits to major corporations throughout the southern states.

In addition to swearing-in new members, the Regents also elected and installed a new slate of officers including:

Officers:

Robert Levy-Chair (Ruston)
Mary Ellen Roy-Vice Chair (New Orleans)
Charlotte Bollinger-Secretary (Lockport)

Executive Committee:

Robert Levy (Ruston) Donna Klein (New Orleans)
Mary Ellen Roy (New Orleans) Joe Wiley (Gonzales)
Charlotte Bollinger (Lockport) W. Clinton Rasberry (Shreveport)
Robert Bruno (Covington)

Newly elected Chairman Bob Levy, told Regents members that higher education in Louisiana will be operating under a "new normal" in the coming months and years that will require doing business differently, more creatively and with a strong sense of accountability.

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“We have a mandate to think strategically, but act quickly,” said Chairman Levy. “We must be aggressive, but not irresponsible. We have to be transformative in a way that both meets the short term needs of a significantly reduced budget but also produces a higher education system that meets the demands of students and the workforce across Louisiana for the long term.”

Levy outlined several key initiatives that will guide Regents’ strategic and focused recommendations in both the short and long term. He described it as a ladder approach of productivity leading to improved educational attainment.

“Our two legs or twin pillars will be a revised Performance-Based Budgeting formula on one side that is strategic, defensible, understandable and drives sustainable improvement, and on the other side an Academic Program Review focused on eliminating low-completer and unnecessary duplicative programs,” said Chairman Levy. “The connecting rungs of the ladder are initiatives that support the twin pillars such as implementing and refining the GRAD Act, the transfer degree, regional alignment of programs, better space/facility utilization and updating of the Regents’ Master Plan and many other related activities.”

Levy indicated that recommendations on the budgeting formula and program reviews could be presented to Regents later this month.

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