



# REGENTS RECAP

## Regents Approves Additional GRAD Act Targeted Measures for all Systems

Act 741 of 2010 and Act 418 of 2011, Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas, commonly referred to as the GRAD Act, require the institutions, their management boards and the Board of Regents to enter into six-year GRAD Act Agreements. Under the GRAD Act, the Board of Regents is authorized to add additional measures.

During Fall 2012, Regents' staff met with System GRAD Act Liaisons to establish new Targeted Measures and to examine all Tracked Measures to determine which Tracked Measures to convert to Targeted Measures, as applicable. The Regents' staff recommended, and the Board of Regents adopted in December 2012, a menu of Targeted Measures.

Following the Board's adoption of the new measure options, the institutions in the LSU, SU and UL systems determined their appropriate Targeted Measures, established annual benchmarks and end-of-Agreement targets, and negotiated final draft benchmarks and targets with Regents' staff. The Board of Regents approved the new/additional Targeted Measures at its meeting on January 23, 2013.

As a result of today's board meeting, all targeted measures for Attachment D of the GRAD Act have been approved for all systems. This includes the corresponding annual benchmarks and end-of-Agreement targets.

"We are optimistic about the new targeted measures that our campuses have established," said Commissioner Purcell. "During this time of limited resources, it's important that campuses are focused on greater accountability and maximizing efficiency...the new GRAD Act targeted measures will help institutions achieve their goals."

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*Commissioner of Higher Education*

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## Regents Hosts Trusteeship Conference

Educational leaders from higher education systems gathered for a one-day conference to discuss current post-secondary issues and their possible solutions. Discussions focused on innovative strategies to increase the number of Louisianans that earn a college degree, budget challenges, and exploring ways to ensure that institutions are meeting workforce demands.

The agenda consisted of presentations and panel discussions featuring management board members, system presidents, key stakeholder/policy organizations, and national experts who offered national higher education best practices and opportunities for collaboration.

“Today’s conference engaged leaders on strategies to help improve higher education in Louisiana,” said Commissioner Jim Purcell. “It is imperative that we align our efforts across all of our institutions quickly to address some of the issues that higher education is facing, and to adequately move students from the classroom to the workforce.”

Opening remarks were made by Regents Chair, “Bubba” Rasberry, who challenged management boards and system presidents to be the “change agents” for higher education. “It is through our leadership, innovation, and fearlessness that we will lead the transformation of higher education in Louisiana,” said Rasberry.

There was also an element of celebration during this year’s conference. The Board of Regents acknowledged system successes during a first ever “Regents Red Carpet Award” ceremony, where all four systems were recognized for significant accomplishments. Regents also highlighted several of their own successes including the GRAD Act, and other initiatives which promoted greater collaboration and improved efficiencies.

“The Regents Red Carpet Awards was created to award our systems for their individual achievements, said Regent Member Charlotte Bollinger. “All of our systems have their own niche and play a critical role in our state.”

System presidents conveyed their perspectives about the changing business model and its impact on their campuses, noting that as fiscal resources decline, quality institutional programs and services are being compromised.

Barry Erwin (CABL), Michael Hecht (GNO, Inc), Adam Knapp (BRAC), and Robert Scott (PAR) served as panelists during an informative session called “*Challenges Facing Higher Education and the Path Forward.*” They discussed the development of public agendas to guide higher education policymaking, their organizations’ role in addressing higher education challenges, and ways to better align higher education to the community.



**Louisiana’s higher education system presidents during the “Changing the Business Model” panel discussion.**



**BRAC President and CEO Adam Knapp responds to a question during the “Challenges Facing Higher Education and the Path Forward” panel discussion.**

## Regents Recommends Tuition Setting Authority for Professional Schools

During today's board meeting, Regents approved a response to Senate Resolution 167 of the 2012 Regular Session, which recommends the state's public education management boards to set tuition for professional schools in accordance with the BoR legislatively approved Tuition Policy. Based on a review of the framework followed by other states in setting tuition at public postsecondary educational institutions, Louisiana is only one of three states in which the legislature has primary tuition-setting authority, and the only state in which tuition increases require a two-thirds vote from each chamber of the legislature. The findings also reflect that tuition rates of Louisiana's professional schools are below SREB peers. "The report is parallel with our findings regarding tuition rates of our undergraduate programs," said Commissioner Purcell. "This is why we are seeking greater flexibility for our systems to determine tuition rates at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and for the professional programs."

During the upcoming legislative session, the Board of Regents is recommending that the state's public postsecondary education management boards have the authority to set tuition for each of their institutions and for all programs in accordance with the legislatively approved Regents' Tuition Policy.

### Regents' Highlights

~Regents approved the following GRAD Act Items for LCTCS:

- Renegotiated Targets Due to Mergers/Transfers
  1. Louisiana Delta Community College
  2. South Louisiana Community College
  3. SOWELA Technical Community College
- New/Additional Targets for the aforementioned schools

~Regents approved the response to Senate Resolution No. 167 of the 2012 Regular Session

~Regents approved the following Consent Agenda items:

- Leases
  1. Construction of Renovations to Tiger Stadium's East and West Windows (Louisiana State University and A&M College)
  2. Construction of Additional Parking at Alex Box Stadium and Tiger Park (Louisiana State University and A&M College)

~Regents approved Louisiana State University-Eunice Interim Emergency Board (IEB) Scope Change Request

- A. Replacement of Science Building Laboratory Fume Hoods
- B. Roof Replacement for the Health and Physical Education Building including the gymnasium

~Regents approved the Northshore Technical Community College – Sullivan Campus Interim Emergency Board Funding Request pertaining to the Roof Replacement for Administration and Shop Buildings

#### *About Regents*

*The Board of Regents, a state agency created by the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, coordinates all public higher education in Louisiana. The Board of Regents believes that a robust public postsecondary education system is critical in order to enhance Louisiana's social and economic environment. Through statewide academic planning and review, budgeting and performance funding, research, and accountability, Regents strives to ensure that all students have access to high-quality educational opportunities.*