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Commissioner of Higher Education Comments on Legislative Session

BATON ROUGE, La. –Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell released the following statement concerning the 2012 Legislative Session upon adjournment.

“It has been a busy legislative season for higher education and I believe many important issues surrounding our colleges and universities were thoughtfully debated and discussed,” said Commissioner Purcell. “In the end, the budget became our number one priority and I appreciate all the efforts of the administration and the legislature in mitigating what could have been a catastrophic reduction for higher education. In the final debate it was also heartening to hear the many voices supporting our efforts to find a more sustainable funding source for higher education in the future. It will be critical for these discussions to continue with our state and campus leaders so that a long-term solution can be identified.”

Commissioner Purcell met today with all four system presidents to discuss distribution of the \$25 million reduction for the current fiscal year (FY 2011-12) as well as a \$71 million cut to higher education for FY 2012-13. The Board of Regents will also assign staff to address 10 study resolutions approved by the legislature on topics including governance structure, employee compensation, tuition for professional schools, and implementation of the LSU-Shreveport Commitment Plan.

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