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## **Regents Expand CALL Adult learning Initiative to Four New Campuses**

The Board of Regents-sponsored adult learning initiative known as CALL (Continuum for All Louisiana Learners), piloted this past year in the northwestern region of the state, has been expanded to include campuses in nearly every geographic region for 2008-09. Details of the expansion were provided in a report to the Board of Regents today.

The CALL initiative, aimed largely at adult learners already in the workforce who have some college credit but never earned a degree, allows participants to earn a degree in selected disciplines online and, in many cases, through accelerated courses. The program also has a prior learning assessment component, which offers students the opportunity to earn degree credit for college-level learning they may have acquired while on the job through the evaluation of a portfolio or by passing a departmental or national examination.

Since last January, CALL has been piloted at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches and Bossier Parish Community College, near Shreveport. The success of the program so far in attracting adults back to college prompted the Regents to solicit proposals for expansion to four additional campuses. The new campuses selected for CALL include the University of Louisiana —Monroe, Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, McNeese State University in Lake Charles, and LSU-Eunice.

“If Louisiana is going to significantly increase our population of college-educated citizens, which is critical to our long-term economic viability, we need to attract students from all sources,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. “The success of the CALL program so far shows that many working adults are eager to earn degrees if we can streamline that process. I fully expect CALL to be even more successful as we expand it, both in terms of geography and program offerings.”