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Statewide Postsecondary Enrollment Recovery Continues

According to preliminary campus reports submitted to the Board of Regents, fall enrollment statewide at Louisiana's public colleges and universities is up some 2,500 students over the fall of 2006. Total statewide enrollment stands at 197,922, compared to 195,380 last fall. Most of the growth occurred at Louisiana's two-year institutions. Many four-year campuses reported a slight dip in enrollment.

"We're glad to see our enrollment recovery continue," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "The figures show enrollment on four-year campuses basically stable, down perhaps 2% or so, with nearly a 12% increase at our community and technical colleges. Storm impact notwithstanding, these figures are consistent with our expectations of the impact of the four-year admission requirements implemented in 2005. The idea then and now to improve the academic preparation level of freshmen enrolling at our four-year universities and enroll a higher percentage of our college freshman at two-year campuses, where they can be educated more economically and have a higher likelihood of success. These figures, coupled with higher average ACT scores of first-time freshmen at our four-year universities, show that we're accomplishing just that."

Savoie said that Louisiana's enrollment at two-year colleges as a proportion of overall enrollment still lags well behind national and regional averages, but that the state is making encouraging progress.

An array of new state efforts is aimed at improving enrollment at all institutions.

"We're still down about 16,000 students overall compared to pre-storm enrollments," Savoie said. "That's one of the reasons why we've taken several measures this year to attract more students of all ages to our campuses. Those measures include the new *GO Grant* financial aid program for low-to moderate-income students, the CALL adult learning initiative and the expansion of our dual enrollment program for high school students."

A graph depicting Louisiana's enrollment trend in recent years is attached.