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P. O. Box 3677
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Contact: Meg Casper
meg.casper@la.gov

Regents Approve Remedial Pilot

BATON ROUGE, La. –The Board of Regents approved a pilot program today that could impact the minimum admissions criteria for regional universities in 2014. Current policy dictates that regional universities will no longer be able to admit students needing developmental courses beginning in 2014 (the flagship and statewide universities cannot offer developmental courses in the Fall, 2012). However, national programs seeking to improve college retention and completion including Complete College America (CCA) and Education Commission of the States (ECS) have recently promoted the idea of providing remedial instruction concurrently with a college-level course as a way to improve overall student success causing Regents to consider the pilot.

“National research initiatives suggest that students who begin in college-level courses with some support rather than just taking remedial classes separately are more likely to not only pass the course, but also to successfully continue in college,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell. “Since the regional universities have some time before the higher admission standards kick in I thought it was the perfect opportunity to study this possibility in Louisiana to see if produced results for our students.”

Under the pilot, students who earn a Mathematics ACT sub-score of at least 17 or an English ACT sub-score of at least 16 would be eligible to take developmental courses in mathematics or English along with college-level courses as either two co-requisite classes, an extended section, or as mandatory supplemental instruction. Students will take a diagnostic test at the beginning and end of the pilot to assess growth. Upon successful completion of the college-level course, students in the pilot will be encouraged to enroll in a second college-level course in the next semester. By the Spring semester of 2014, Regents will have enough data to evaluate the results of the program to determine whether to revise the Minimum Admission Standards.

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