



## LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS

### PRESS RELEASE

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### Regents holds 4th Annual Trusteeship Conference

**Baton Rouge, LA-** Higher education system leaders gathered today for the 4th Annual Board of Regents' Trusteeship Conference held at Pennington. This one-day conference focused on economic development and workforce development. The agenda consisted of presentations and panel discussions featuring management board members, system presidents, workforce and economic development leaders, key stakeholder/policy organizations, and national experts who conveyed the importance of higher education's role in economic and workforce development.

Opening remarks were made by Regents Chair, "Bubba" Rasberry, who challenged higher education leaders to:

- (1) Continue advocating for additional state support for higher education to address the economic needs of our state;
- (2) Continue supporting higher education funding that is fair and equitable;
- (3) Speak in harmony, with one voice, so that there is clarity in what higher education needs to do; and
- (4) Ensure that systems are focused on providing high-quality educational programs that are accessible to all.

The keynote address was provided by Brandon Busted, Executive Director of Gallup Education, who announced that Louisiana leads the nation in workforce engagement. Engagement is defined as employees that are loyal and psychologically committed to the organization. Research shows that engaged workers are more productive and more likely to stay with their company. He also conveyed the importance of integrating a "flipped curriculum" in education. "A key ingredient in education is to start project-based learning, internships, and mentorships earlier in high school," said Busted. "Giving students early workforce experience empowers their motivation for pursuing potential career pathways. We need to be aiming at discovering the unique talents of our students and build an academic and employment success plan around their strengths."

Busted's presentation was followed by responses from Secretary Eysink, Secretary Moret, LABI's President Waguespack, and Ben Bordelon with Bollinger Shipyards, and another panel consisting of system presidents.

The afternoon session began with a panel discussion consisting of state legislators conveying the 2014 legislative priorities and their perception of higher education and workforce. "I think the environment is better than its ever been," said Speaker Kleckly, referencing the greater collaboration among systems in addressing workforce.

Topics ranging from TOPS, performance based funding, tuition autonomy, K-12 preparedness, and adequate funding for higher education were identified by the panelists as high priority areas for the upcoming legislative session.