

Regents Recap

Highlights of the Official Actions of the Louisiana Board of Regents

April 24, 2003

Regents Receive 2002-03 EPAS Results

The Board of Regents today received the results of the 2002-03 statewide administration of the ACT EPAS assessment, a Regents-funded initiative designed to assist middle- and high-school students in preparing for college and careers. According to ACT, the good news is that this year's results show more than six thousand sophomores already have achieved the equivalent of an ACT score of 20 or higher, an increase over last year. In addition, African-American student scores have improved.

This year EPAS was administered to 42,780 eighth graders and 37,424 tenth graders, representing every school district in the state.

While the results show improvements, for a majority of the participants today's results reveal an important need to address the gap between academic expectations and the new university admissions requirements. According to the report, 67% of the eighth graders who took the test plan to go to college, but only 31% are planning to take a college prep high school program. For sophomores, some 76% who participated indicated that they plan to attend college but about half of the tenth-grade participants are not on target for being "college ready." The state's *Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education* calls on all four-year institutions to implement admission standards which will require completion of a college preparatory curriculum in order to enroll.

"The data on the disparity between what our eighth and tenth graders say they intend to do and

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Regents Approve LEQSF Awards

The Board of Regents today approved recommendations for awarding almost \$27 million from the Louisiana Educational Quality Support Fund (LEQSF) to colleges and universities for FY 2002-03.

The Board action establishes the following award distribution: Endowment of Chairs for Eminent Scholars - \$3,220,000; Research and Development - \$5,350,000; Enhancement of Quality of Department/Units - \$13,5634,800; Recruitment of Superior Graduate Students - \$3,924,000.

Program Approvals

The Board of Regents today approved the following academic programs, proposed letters of intent for new academic programs, and academic research centers:

Academic program: McNeese State University - Bachelor of General Studies

Proposed letters of intent: 1) University of Louisiana at Lafayette - M.S. in Engineering - Petroleum Engineering, and 2) Northwestern State University - B.S. in Addiction Studies

Proposed academic research center: LSU A&M College - National Center for Security Research and Training.

The Board also approved the following proposed teacher preparation redesign program: Mild/Moderate Special Education Non-Master/Certification Only program at the University of New Orleans.



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Student Member

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Regents Request Recommendation On Funding Formula

The Board of Regents approved the Executive Committee's proposal that Regents staff provide a recommendation for a new higher education funding formula at the June Board meeting. Prior to the June Board meeting, discussions will be held with system and campus representatives

EPAS Results (continued from page 1)

what they are on track to do is a great example of the value of EPAS," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joe Savoie. "We're now getting a true picture of the disconnects that can negatively impact college access and success in time for adjustments to be made. Now our job will focus on raising student awareness regarding admission requirements and working with middle and high schools to ensure that academic gaps are addressed."

To increase public awareness, campuses throughout the state plan to once again host recruiting fairs, beginning next week, aimed at 8th, 9th and 10th graders. To address academic shortcomings, statewide workshops have been held to review the ACT "standards of transition," a crosswalk that identifies specific skills that must be addressed in order for students to increase their academic readiness.

In addition to measuring achievement in English, mathematics, science and reasoning, EPAS also includes a student interest inventory, which helps students, parents and counselors better understand how a student's abilities and interests can be matched with college curricula and, ultimately, career opportunities.

"These results speak volumes to students, their parents, and their teachers and counselors," said Commissioner Savoie. "The EPAS assessment is both providing our individual students with a personalized guide to their educational and career futures *and* it's providing a blueprint for instructional improvements."

Parents of student participants will receive information on their child's individual scores and career interests. School principals, teachers and counselors will receive overall school scores to assist them in addressing students' identified needs, career interests and any identified academic gaps.

For more information on these and other Board of Regents actions, please visit our website at www.regents.state.la.us.