

Regents Recap

Highlights of the Activities and Official Actions of the Louisiana Board of Regents

August 2007

New Regent Takes Oath

Donna G. Klein was sworn in as the newest member of the Board of Regents on August 29. Klein is an attorney with the law firm of McGlinchey Stafford, where she serves as head of the healthcare law group and as managing partner of the New Orleans office.

Klein attended Loyola University and received her Juris Doctor from Tulane University School of Law in 1981. She also serves as co-chair of the Board of Directors of the Committee for a Better New Orleans-Metropolitan Area Committee and as a member of the Board of Commissioners for the Ernest N. Morial - New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority,



New Board of Regents member Donna Klein is sworn in by General Counsel Connie Koury. Klein's husband looks on.

Regents Approve Plan to Increase Number of Nurses, Healthcare Workers

The Louisiana Board of Regents approved a 2007-08 Health Works budget plan to use more than \$12.4 million in new state funding to address the shortage of nurses and allied health care professionals working in the state. The plan aims to help the state's public and private nursing and allied health programs employ more faculty, enroll more students, and produce more graduates.

"Louisiana is experiencing a critical shortage of nurses and other allied health care professionals," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "The plan addresses a fundamental cause of this workforce challenge: a shortage of qualified faculty to teach additional students."

The plan allocates new funding for the state's nursing and allied health educational programs. One important use of that funding will be to hire new faculty, which will help increase program capacity at institutions by an additional 772 nursing students and 202 allied health students in critical shortage areas. In addition, the plan provides for an increase of 500 students in Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) programs in Louisiana.

To help meet future faculty needs, the budget plan provides stipends for 86 graduate students in health care disciplines. Upon receipt of their graduate degrees, recipients benefiting from the stipends are committed to teach in Louisiana nursing programs.

"Since the entire nation is suffering from this nurse faculty shortage, it's clear that Louisiana's most effective response will be to grow its own faculty," Savoie said.

Savoie expressed thanks to Governor Blanco and the Legislature, especially Senator Joe McPherson, who chairs the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, for their strong support of this important initiative.

Louisiana ACT Five-Year Improvement Trend Outpaces National Average

Louisiana's five-year ACT (American College Test) composite score improvement trend continues to outpace the national trend. Since 2003, Louisiana's average composite score has risen 0.5 points, while the national average has risen by 0.4 points.

Louisiana students received an average composite score on the ACT this year of 20.1, holding steady at the same average posted in 2006. The national average came in at 21.2, up one tenth of a point from 21.1 last year. ACT, Inc., headquartered in Iowa City, Iowa, released its 2007 national and state-level data this morning. Most Louisiana colleges and universities use the ACT to gauge college readiness and to qualify students for admission.

"There's good news in the report for Louisiana," said Karen Pennell, ACT Assistant Vice President and Regional Manager. "Not only did Louisiana's five-year improvement trend remain stronger than the average, but math and reading scores are at an all-time high." The state's average math and reading scores both improved by one tenth of a point over the previous year, to 19.5 and 20.2 respectively.

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The next Board of Regents meeting will be held September 26-27, 2007



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E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Board Action - August 29-30, 2007

Program Approvals

The Board of Regents approved the following program proposals and progress reports:

Proposed Academic Programs

- Louisiana State University Health Science Center - New Orleans: Ph.D. in Biostatistics
- Louisiana State University - Alexandria: B.S. in Business Administration
- Louisiana Tech University: Graduate Certificate in the Dynamics of Domestic Violence
- Louisiana Technical College - Baton Rouge: A.A.S. in Occupational Education

Proposed Program Termination

- Nicholls State University: A.S. in Emergency Medical Services - Paramedic

Proposed Letters of Intent

- Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - New Orleans: Doctor of Public Health
- Southern University - Baton Rouge: B.S. in Computer Science - Option in Cyber Security

Proposed Research Unit

- Southern University - Baton Rouge: International Center for Information Technology and Development

Proposed Administrative Unit

- Southern University - Baton Rouge: Department of Educational Leadership

Progress Reports on Conditionally Approved Center/Programs

- Baton Rouge Community College: A.A.S. in Entertainment Technologies
- Northwestern State University: M.A. in Heritage Resources
- Louisiana Technical College - T.H. Harris Campus: A.A.S. in the Care and Development of Young Children
- Nicholls State University: B.S. in Geomatics; M.S. in Coastal and Environmental Biology; M.S. in Community College Mathematics
- Southern University - Baton Rouge: Master of Business Administration

Regents Approve "Success Through Articulation" Agreement

The Board of Regents approved an agreement that will significantly increase the number of high school courses across the state that will count for credit at Louisiana Technical College (LTC).

The agreement among the Louisiana Department of Education, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), and the Board of Regents is called *Success Through Articulation* (STArt). "Articulation" refers to the ability of a course taken at one institution to transfer for full credit to a different institution, in this case from a high school to an LTC campus. STArt adds fifteen new high school technical courses (to five previously approved) that will articulate for credit at any of the forty campuses of LTC.

"Secondary-to-postsecondary course articulation and transfer is an issue that Louisiana's entire education community has been working to address for several years now," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "The STArt agreement is a giant step forward in helping Louisiana's students, especially those who want to acquire specialized workforce skills but who may not want to pursue a degree, move more smoothly from high school to technical college. I applaud the efforts of the Secondary-to-Postsecondary Steering Committee in working with secondary and postsecondary content experts to make this agreement possible."

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2007 Gulf Coast Post-Katrina Forum Declared Success

Dr. Kerry Davidson, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, reported to the Board that the 2007 Gulf Coast Post-Katrina Forum held in Biloxi, Mississippi, August 19-21 was a unqualified success. The conference focused on efforts to develop potential collaborations among researchers at institutions in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Dual Enrollment Projected to Increase Significantly

Dr. Larry Tremblay, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, provided the Board a map depicting the predicted geographical coverage of dual enrollment courses in 2007-08. From a course enrollment of approximately 1,800 in the pilot year 2006-07, course enrollments are projected to exceed 15,000 during 2007-08, with students from every parish in Louisiana participating in the initiative.

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

ACT (from page 1)

“While the trend over the last five years has been very promising, we need to make more progress,” said State Superintendent Paul G. Pastorek. “In order to do so, we must take steps to redesign our high schools. We cannot keep doing what we have been doing and expect to see ACT scores rise. High school redesign offers the promise of making the kind of progress we want from our students. The BESE and I are working hard to finalize our policy to redesign high schools and to begin to implement changes in the classroom.”

“It’s very encouraging to learn that our scores have held their ground this year,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. “While we were pleased with the significant improvement shown in last year’s report, we weren’t sure how much confidence to place in those results because so many Katrina-displaced students were absent from the normal mix. However, there were more than 900 additional test takers this year, and the composite average did not dip. That helps validate last year’s improvement. We still have work to do, particularly in math, but the trend continues to be positive.”

Between 2003-2007, Louisiana’s composite average improved by 0.5 points, from 19.5 to 20.2. That’s slightly higher than the U.S. average which improved 0.4 points from 20.8 to 21.2 for the same time period. The following table shows how Louisiana’s average composite ACT score improvement has trended compared to the U.S. average.

	Louisiana	US
2003	19.6	20.8
2004	19.8	20.9
2005	19.8	20.9
2006	20.1	21.1
2007	20.1	21.2

Here are Louisiana’s 2007 ACT sub-scores compared to the U.S. average:

	Louisiana	US
English	20.3	20.7
Math	19.5	21.0
Reading	20.2	21.5
Science	19.9	21.0

Success (from page 2)

The agreement is the latest result of Act 151, passed in 1998 by the Louisiana Legislature, which mandates that the Board of Regents and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), in cooperation with the LCTCS and local school boards, enter into articulation agreements to provide opportunities for secondary school students to take vocational-technical courses and community college courses provided by institutions managed by the LCTCS. The overall goal of Louisiana’s statewide articulation initiative is to assist in creating a more coordinated and coherent secondary-to-postsecondary transition process, reducing duplication of instructional efforts and costs associated with student mobility.

The Board’s action adds to the five courses already approved for full articulation to LTC –Automotive, Emergency Medical Technician, First Responder, ProStart (Culinary), and “Students Teaching and Reaching” (STAR/Teacher Cadet) – the following 16 courses:

- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- *Practical Nurse (PN)*
- *Patient Care Technician*
- Sports Medicine
- A+
- Certified Internet Web Design (CIW)
- Microsoft Office User (MOS)
- IC3
- Customer Service
- Horticulture
- Outdoor Power Equipment
- NCCER-Carpentry
- NCCER-Welding
- NCCER-Electrical
- Process Technology (P-TECH)