

Regents Recap

Highlights of the Official Actions of the Louisiana Board of Regents

February 26, 2004

Drawing Held For START College Savings Account

The Board of Regents today hosted a drawing for one \$500 START college savings account to be created in the name of a lucky Louisiana eighth grader. The winner of the account was a student at F. K. White Middle School in Lake Charles, whose name was drawn from among entries received in response to a promotion in conjunction with the Regents-sponsored *Acceler8* magazine, a college-readiness guide provided to Louisiana eighth graders last fall.

"Today's drawing was an excellent opportunity to focus attention on the importance of early college awareness and preparation *and* to highlight Louisiana's excellent START college savings program," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "We're confident that informational efforts such as our College Readiness Fairs and the *Acceler8* publication, in conjunction with tuition funding programs like START and TOPS, will go a long way toward improving college access and success for Louisiana's students."

On hand for the drawing were Louisiana Office of Financial Assistance Executive Director Jack Guinn, who presented highlights of the state's valuable START college savings program, and Jim Parks of the Louisiana Educational Authority (LELA), who drew the winning entry, and Laura Ketteringham, representing the *Baton Rouge Business Report*, which published *Acceler8* on behalf of the Regents. LELA provided funding for the START scholarship account.

Regents Approve Capital Outlay Budget Amendments

The Board of Regents today approved amendments to the 2004-05 Capital Outlay Budget Recommendations, including \$5.76 million in General Obligation Bonds to replace heating pipes at Southern University A&M, \$9.3 million from Revenue Bonds to finance a backlog of maintenance and renovation projects at the University of New Orleans, \$42 million in Revenue Bonds to construct housing at LSU A&M, and \$5 million in Revenue Bonds for needed changes to the LSU A&M Pete Maravich Assembly Center (the project was added to the Self-Generated Category).

The Board also approved a University of Louisiana System request for a Project Using Alternative Means of Financing for a student housing project at the the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and received a report on staff-approved Small Capital projects since the Janaury Board meeting.

Board Commits Matching Funds To LSU, SU Cyber-Security Project

The Board of Regents agreed to provide matching funds of \$200,000 annually to help LSU and Southern University attract a \$10 million National Science Foundation (NSF) "Cyber Trust" program research grant aimed at fostering research to protect the nation's computer systems. The yearly \$200,000 supplement, which will come from previously unspent monies in the Board of Regents Support Fund, would help support a proposed Cyber Trust project called the "Center of Excellence in Cyber Infrastructure Security." The five-year center proposal calls for total funding of \$2 million per year.

The NSF Cyber Trust program seeks to advance the cyber security research frontier, build national education and workforce capacity, and ensure that new knowledge can be out into practice to to protect the nation's computer systems.

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



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