

Regents Recap

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

May 31, 2006

Education Deans Honored By Governor, Legislature and Regents Redesigned Teacher Education Programs Drawing National Attention

The deans of Louisiana's 21 public and private colleges of education were recognized on May 25 by Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, the Louisiana Legislature and the Board of Regents for leading the charge to accomplish a feat most states have found elusive – the successful redesign of teacher preparation and educational leadership programs at all universities in the state. These efforts have resulted in Louisiana's recognition as a national leader in the improvement of teacher preparation and educational leadership programs.

"These accomplishments would not have occurred without the collaborative partnerships that have existed among the Governor, Board of Regents, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, Louisiana Department of Education, the university system boards, all public and private universities, and the partnering districts," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie.

Over the past four years, faculty from universities and local school districts across Louisiana have been actively engaged in the redesign of all regular and alternate teacher preparation programs for grades PK-12. These new programs were initially evaluated by national experts, and additional improvements were made to the programs before they were approved for implementation by July 1, 2003.

District and university partners have now redesigned all graduate programs in teacher education and educational leadership. These programs have also been evaluated by national consultants, and all approved programs will be implemented on July 1, 2006.

"The redesign of these programs has taken a tremendous amount of time and effort," said Jeanne Burns, Associate Commissioner for Teacher Education Initiatives for the Board of Regents and Governor. "However, we have now seen an increase in the number of new teachers completing teacher preparation programs in Louisiana from 2,336 in 2001-02 to 2,664 in 2003-04. In addition, the number of teachers completing our teacher preparation programs meeting all certification requirements at

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Outgoing student board member Chris Jividen (Bossier Parish Community College) receives a commemorative plaque and congratulations on his service to the Board of Regents from Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie (left) and Board Chairman Roland Toups at the May Regents meeting.

The 2006 hurricane season begins June 1



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Chris Jividen
Student Member

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Board Action - May 24-25, 2006

Program Approvals

The Board of Regents approved the following proposed new academic programs, proposed letters of intent, and progress reports on conditionally-approved programs:

Proposed New Academic Programs:

Southern University New Orleans - B.S. in Management Information Sciences; M.S. in Management Information Sciences.

Louisiana Technical College Lafayette - A.A.S. in Culinary Arts and Occupations; A.A.S. in Aviation Maintenance Technology

Proposed Letters of Intent:

Louisiana State University and A&M College - B.S. in Coastal Environmental Science

Louisiana State University Alexandria - B.S. in Nursing

Progress Reports on Conditionally Approved Programs/ Units:

Southern University and A&M College - Master of Business Administration

Louisiana Tech University - Center for Applied Teaching and Learning to Yield Scientific Thinking

Louisiana State University and A&M College - B.A. in Women's and Gender Studies

Bossier Parish Community College - A.A. in Music

Sowela Technical Community College - A.S. in Nursing

Louisiana Delta Community College - A.S. in Early Childhood Education

Delgado Community College - A.A.S. in Veterinary Technology

Implementation of Master Plan Admissions Criteria Assessed

The Board of Regents received an assessment of institutional performance relative to the Master Plan admissions criteria, which took effect at most four-year campuses last fall. Theresa Hay, Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Research, reminded the Committee that Grambling State University, Southern University A&M, Southern University - New Orleans, and LSU-Alexandria were not scheduled to implement admissions criteria in Fall 2005. In addition, due to Hurricane Katrina, the University of New Orleans did not hold a normal fall semester and therefore could not submit the data necessary for the assessment.

Hay reported that nearly every Louisiana four-year campus was successful in implementing the admissions criteria. Hay presented data showing how many students met all admissions criteria and how many were admitted under the exceptions allowed by the Regents. She finished her presentation by reminding the Committee that the levels of exceptions allowed would change for the entering class of Fall 2006.

National Science Foundation to Accept Proposal for Gulf Region Research Forum

Dr. Michael Khonsari, Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs and EPSCoR Project Director, noted that at the Board of Regents meeting of October 27, 2005, two Post-Katrina/Rita Research and Education Forums had been approved. The first was held April 2-4, 2006, with the second scheduled for spring 2007.

Dr. Khonsari informed the Committee that Dr. Jim Gosz, NSF EPSCoR Senior Program Director, praised the Forum highly at a recent national conference. Further, NSF has indicated that it is willing to accept an unsolicited proposal to host a 2007 forum that will explore collaborative research opportunities with Alabama and Mississippi, the other Gulf Coast states impacted by Katrina. Louisiana will act as the lead state and, together with Alabama and Mississippi, prepare a proposal for submission by July 1, 2006. Funding of this proposal will supplement funds that the Board has authorized for a second forum.

Hurricane Damage Repair Status Received

The Board received a report on the status of permanent repairs to facilities damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Rich Griswold, Associate Commissioner for Facilities, reported that Regents staff had met with Jerry Jones, Director of Facility Planning and Control, who provided an overview of correction efforts. Most postsecondary education facilities are categorized on the state's master list as Priority 2, those facilities that are "an essential function of state government" (Priority 1 facilities are those with significant historical and/or cultural significance). According to Griswold, most postsecondary education repair projects have been initiated with the selection or appointment of design professionals.

Commissioner Savoie indicated that of the 918 individual repair projects forecast, over 500 had been initiated. Savoie also said that the planned use of federal funding being provided through HUD to make the repairs was only approved and announced a week ago. Savoie emphasized that Facility Planning and Control wants everyone to be aware that recovery will be a multi-year process.

Shooting for the Stars: STAR Teacher Training Program Articulation Agreement Signed

A group of Louisiana universities and community colleges signed an agreement on May 25 with the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) aimed at increasing the number of students entering the state's teacher education programs. The agreement, executed prior to a joint meeting of BESE and the Louisiana Board of Regents, will allow high school students who complete the state's *Students Teaching and Reaching* (STAR) curriculum to receive degree credit at any Louisiana public postsecondary institution signing the agreement.

The STAR curriculum is a Louisiana Department of Education initiative designed to attract students to the field of education, provide information and field experiences relevant to pursuing a degree in education, and to prepare them for the rigors of a career in education, preferably in

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Education Deans (continued from page 1)

the point of completion have increased from 89% in 1999-2000 to 99% in 2003-2004. Our numbers have increased and our quality has improved.”

All redesigned programs are now aligned with Louisiana’s K-12 content standards, Louisiana’s teacher standards, and Louisiana’s educational leadership standards, and better address the needs of teachers, leaders, and students.

“It is critical that new teachers and new principals understand the new expectations in our PK-12 schools in Louisiana and leave their university programs prepared to help students achieve at higher levels,” said State Superintendent Cecil Picard. “Our new certification requirements and the university redesign efforts are helping us achieve that goal.”

“Many of the changes that have been made to the programs are a result of the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission,” said Frances Henry, member of the Board of Regents and co-chair of the Blue Ribbon Commission. “We are often asked to help other states understand why our Commission has been so successful when other Commissions are struggling.”

Louisiana’s national reputation as a leader in teacher education improvement continues to grow. Among recent examples of such national recognition are the following:

- Louisiana has been identified by *the New York Times* as one of five states leading other states in improving the preparation of new teachers and educational leaders. A video clip and written information about the work of Louisiana’s Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence and the redesign of all teacher preparation is now being highlighted as part of the New York Times Knowledge Network on the New York Times web site. <http://www.nytimes.com/ref/college/collegespecial3/coll-wallace-packet.html>.
- The *National Center for Teaching Quality* has identified Louisiana as one of a limited number of states where higher education and K-12 education are sharing data for the purpose of improving the preparation of new teachers. The center recently completed case studies about Louisiana, Virginia, and Illinois to provide the nation with examples of states that are “building a comprehensive teaching quality data system that will help universities, the state, and the nation answer questions about how to define a quality teacher and what steps need to be taken to recruit, prepare, and retain them.”
- *Education Week’s* 2005 and 2006 *Quality Counts Report* ranks Louisiana *number one* in the nation for two consecutive years in Efforts to Improve Teacher Quality and has awarded Louisiana a grade of “A” each year. The redesign of all teacher preparation programs and the implementation of a rigorous Teacher Preparation Accountability System assisted the state in attaining the number one rating.

Articulation Agreement (continued from page 2)

Louisiana.

“This agreement is emblematic of the spirit of cooperation and collaboration that has existed between BESE and Louisiana’s postsecondary education community in recent years,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. “We’re continuing to make steady progress toward our education quality goals because we’re working together. I look forward to the impact of the many ‘star’ teachers I fully expect to come out of this valuable program.”

Signers of the “articulation” agreement include Bossier Parish Community College, Grambling State University, Louisiana Delta Community College, Louisiana State University at Shreveport, Louisiana Tech University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, Southern University at Shreveport and the University of Louisiana at Monroe. The term “articulation” refers to the ability to apply academic credit earned at one institution to a degree program at another institution.

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