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## **New Leadership Sworn In for Board of Regents**

BATON ROUGE, La. –The new year brings new leadership to the Louisiana Board of Regents. During its initial meeting of the year, Artis Terrell of Shreveport and Robert Levy of Ruston were sworn in as the new Chairman and Vice Chairman of the board. Terrell replaces Pat Strong who completed his term of service with the board and was honored by his colleagues during his last meeting.

“Pat Strong has the rare ability to not only lead with courage, but to collaborate skillfully with others,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Sally Clausen. “During his 19 years of leadership in higher education, Pat always placed special focus on ensuring access to higher education for all students, serving adult learners and setting high expectations and standards for all students while being sensitive to the workforce needs of the future. I personally thank him for his dedication to our state and its citizens,” Clausen said.

Strong served as a member of the Board of Trustees for six years before it was replaced by the Board of Regents in 1995. Since then, he has continued his role as a board member and became Chairman of the Board of Regents in 2007. Highlights of his tenure include the establishment of the Community and Technical College System as well as the creation of a new Master Plan for Higher Education and a performance-based funding formula. Strong is also credited with critical leadership during the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Artis Terrell of Shreveport, who succeeds Strong as Chairman of the Board of Regents, says he is ready for the challenge of leading the board that oversees higher education in Louisiana and is looking forward to continued progress.

“If our state is going to compete in the global economy, we must invest in our people,” said Chairman Terrell. “Higher education in our state has gained momentum during the past decade and it is my hope that we will continue to build on that foundation of access and accountability. Our leaders must make education a priority, but we also have an obligation to ensure educational opportunities are affordable for students in our underserved communities. I am committed to making sure our colleges and universities are efficient, effective and focused on serving both our students and our state.” Terrell emphasized.

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