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Regents Declare Moratorium on New College Programs

The Board of Regents today declared a moratorium on the introduction of new academic programs at all public colleges and universities in the state. The action, rare but not unprecedented in the 30-year history of the Regents, is part of a series of measures the Board is implementing to ensure that limited resources are used as efficiently as possible in rebuilding the state's public postsecondary education system, hard hit by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"The Board's primary purpose in declaring the moratorium is to see to it that adequate resources are first made available to existing, mission-critical degree programs before any new programs are considered," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. Louisiana's postsecondary education infrastructure has been severely weakened by the recent disasters, and critical issues, including even what and where to rebuild, cannot be fully resolved until repopulation patterns emerge. Moreover, the state's budget has been decimated by the loss of critical tax revenue and a stable tax base. It's important for the Board to make sure that we focus resources on essential activities."

The moratorium applies to all existing and anticipated proposals for new programs, but it does allow for certain exceptions, as follows: 1) programs/units required by legal mandates, 2) programs/units which have completed all levels of review except final consideration by the Board of Regents, 3) programs/units deemed essential to immediate and long term economic recovery after recent hurricane damage, 4) programs/units deemed essential to completing program development required for institutional accreditation of emerging new institutions, and 5) programs/units deemed essential to continue ongoing teacher education reform efforts. The moratorium, effective immediately will remain in effect through the 2006-2007 fiscal year.