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Regents' Master Plan Progress

BATON ROUGE, La. – Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell announced that Louisiana has achieved notable progress towards meeting the three goals outlined in the 2011 Master Plan for Higher Education during a presentation to the Board of Regents today. The first-annual review of the Master Plan—which is designed to be implemented over a 15-year time period—included 97 quantitative measures as well as several qualitative measures.

The three goals of the 2011 Master Plan include:

1. Increasing the Educational Attainment of the State's Adult Population to the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) State's Average of 42% by 2025.
2. Fostering Innovation Through Research in Science and Technology in Louisiana.
3. Achieving Greater Accountability, Efficiency and Effectiveness in the Postsecondary Education System.

For Goal #1, of the 54 quantitative measures, Regents' first annual report showed:

- 39 improved
- 14 declined
- 1 unchanged

For Goal #2, of the 28 quantitative measures, the report showed:

- 15 improved
- 11 declined
- 2 unchanged

For Goal #3, of the 15 quantitative measures, the report showed:

- 12 improved
- 3 declined

Additionally, Commissioner Purcell noted that Louisiana recently received national recognition in a U.S. Chamber of Commerce report entitled, "Leaders and Laggards" which was released in June, 2012. In the publication, Louisiana received an "A" in the area of Policy Environment which included a review of state goals, outcome-based funding and articulation/transfer policies. The national evaluation noted, "Louisiana's 2011 Master Plan has hard targets for a number of the state's goals. Fifteen percent of any institution's funding is based on six-year performance agreements concerning institution-specific outcomes and Louisiana has a clear articulation policy that includes a course equivalency matrix for individual course transfers."

"This annual, internal Master Plan evaluation gains relevance when we are recognized nationally for the foundational policies and goals that Louisiana has put in place to increase student outcomes," said Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell. "It's important to remember that our institutions are making this progress in a very difficult economic environment that includes a 10% increase in enrollment with a 26% decrease in state funding as well as a 49% increase in tuition and fees since 2008. There is no doubt that higher education is rapidly changing and will require some funding stability moving forward."

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