

March 26, 2014



# Regents Recap

## Regents' Board Development Focuses on the WISE Plan System Presidents Convey Support

**Baton Rouge, LA-** Today, the Board of Regents held its monthly board development session which focused on the Workforce and Innovation for a Stronger Economy initiative, otherwise known as the WISE fund. This \$40 million fund rewards institutions for degree/certificate production and research productivity in areas of high demand.

Curt Eysink, executive director for the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and Stephen Moret, secretary of Louisiana Economic Development addressed the board, conveying their support of the WISE fund and the importance of this new initiative to adequately address Louisiana's economic development and workforce needs. System presidents from Louisiana's public universities were also present, and provided their perspectives on the WISE fund.

"WISE is about enhancing the human capital talent of this state," said LSU President-Chancellor, Dr. King Alexander. "We must have stability in our budgets to build the pipelines and meet the needs. This fund will help us meet the needs of the new economy."

UL System President Dr. Sandra Woodley followed, sharing her thoughts on the development process. "The last 4-5 months have been some of the most exciting work I've done in my career," said Woodley. "We have to address the workforce gap and this is an exciting point to work through. The WISE fund looks specifically at double performance – money based on real degree performance and research. I am pleased with the outcome."

Several leaders expressed the positive synergy that has been generated from this collaborative effort. "It is always good to see the Governor's Office, the Board of Regents, system presidents, and others coming together to address one of the most critical concerns in higher education today," said Chairman Rasberry.

Louisiana's newest system president, Monte Sullivan of LCTCS added, "You should be proud of the work that all of us are collectively doing. It's not about how we carve out a pot of money. It's about forward funding the workforce of tomorrow."

President Ronald Mason of the Southern System also expressed his support of the WISE fund for two main reasons. "First, it's a package that helps to put an end to the cuts and allows us to keep tuition dollars, and second, it's really an important part of the puzzle in addressing the workforce shortage."

## Regents Members

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Joseph C. Wiley

Brooksie Bonvillain

*Student*

James E. Purcell

*Commissioner of Higher  
Education*

## Regents Approves FY 2014-2015 Funding Recommendation

The Board of Regents approved the recommended funding distribution for FY 2014-2015. This year, institutions are being held at the current year's existing operating budget, along with additional funds.

During the October Regents meeting, a budget proposal was presented and adopted to bring the formula institutions to an equal funding level without reducing funding to any institutions. This proposal envisioned that approximately \$75 Million would be required. The Executive Budget allocates a funding level equal to the current year appropriation and an additional \$6.1 million to be used for an equity component to raise the implementation rate of institutions funded farthest below the state average. Additionally, \$40 million was appropriated to the Board of Regents for an incentive program entitled Workforce Incentive for a Stronger Economy (WISE) to allocate funding based on degree and certificate production and research productivity in high demand fields. Also, \$2 million was provided for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) equipment upgrades at Southern University and Grambling State University.

For non-formula funding units, budget allocations are equal to the current year appropriation, with the LSU AgCenter receiving \$5 million to restore based funding reduced in previous fiscal periods. Additionally, the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) program was increased by \$82 million base on anticipated need for FY 2014-15. The total recommended FY 2014-2015 funding for higher education is approximately \$2.6B. The FY 2014-2015 recommended funding distribution will be sent to the Louisiana Legislature by the March 31<sup>st</sup> statutory deadline.

## Regents Administrator Testifies at Congressional Hearing on Teacher Preparation

This week, Dr. Jeanne Burns, Associate Commissioner for Teacher and Leadership Initiatives for the Louisiana Board of Regents testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions in Washington, DC for the hearing entitled "Teacher Preparation: Ensuring a Quality Teacher in Every Classroom."

Dr. Burns discussed the work being done in Louisiana to improve its teacher preparation programs and how funds under Title II of the Higher Education Act are being used to support these efforts. In addition, Dr. Burns offered recommendations for improvements to the Higher Education Act that would help states, institutions of higher education and other stakeholders strengthen their programs.

"Louisiana is currently being recognized as a model for other states to examine because of the success that has occurred as state boards have developed more rigorous policies for teacher licensure and teacher preparation approval," said Burns. "The work that our public and private universities have done in redesigning their programs to address the more rigorous expectations has been phenomenal." From 2003 – 2010, all pre-redesign teacher preparation programs in Louisiana were terminated and the boards only approved redesigned programs that met the higher expectations. Dr. Burns indicated that this has been complicated and challenging work that has been supported by many stakeholders at the state, university, district, and community levels. These efforts have resulted in all universities now having programs that are nationally accredited and all but one university having 100% passage rates as candidates complete the programs.

Data exist to show that children being taught by new teachers who completed redesigned programs demonstrate greater growth in learning than children taught by teachers who completed pre-redesign programs. Louisiana has now completed Teacher Preparation Transformation 1.0 and is now embarking upon Teacher Preparation Transformation 2.0 as new needs are being identified to further improve the effective of all new teachers in Louisiana.

"We are very proud of the work that Dr. Burns and our universities are doing and it's certainly is an honor for Louisiana's teacher preparation programs to be recognized on a national level," said Chairman Rasberry.



# Regents' Highlights

- ✓ The Board of Regents received updates on the following items during the Sponsored Programs Committee:
  - Board of Regents Support Fund
  - Concept of Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships (preliminary consideration)
- ✓ The Board of Regents approved the following Academic and Student Affairs items:
  - Letter of Intent: M.S. in Transportation (UNO)
  - Proposed New Programs
    - a. CAS in Medical Coding Specialist –RPCC
    - b. CAS in Process Technology Foundations – RPCC
  - Termination Requests
    - a. MEd in Educational Technology Leadership – SLU
  - The request for termination of the Medical Laboratory Science Program at ULM was deferred.
  - LA Nursing Education Articulation Model
  - Consent Agenda Items:
    - Reauthorization of Previously Approved Research Units: National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies (NIMSAT)
    - Staff Approval of Routine Academic Requests & Letters of Intent/Proposals in Queue
- ✓ The Board of Regents approved the following Facilities and Property items:
  - Consent Agenda (Small Capital Projects- see board docs for a list of projects)
  - Project Utilizing Alternative Means of Financing: Grounds and Buildings Lease Request
  - Major Repair Project Additions to Act 27 of 2006
- ✓ The Board of Regents approved the following Planning Research and Performance items:
  - Consent Agenda
    - 1. R.S. 17:1808 (Initial License)
      - a. Kansas State University
      - b. Texas Tech University
      - c. University of Kansas
      - d. University of South Dakota
    - 2. License Renewals
      - a. Jones International University
      - b. Southwest University
      - c. Virginia College
    - 3. Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission (Initial License)
      - a. Andrea's Career Institute, LLC
      - b. Baton Rouge Dental Assistant Academy
      - c. LifeSmart Training Center, LLC
      - d. Raymond Career College
      - e. Sparc Academy
    - 4. Associate in Occupational Specialty Degree Program
      - a. Louisiana Culinary Institute, LLC
- ✓ The Board of Regents received an update on the Master Plan and the 2014 Legislative Session.
- ✓ Chairman Rasberry introduced Dr. Tom Layzell, the new Senior Advisor to the Board.
- ✓ The Board of Regents announced the search firm for the upcoming Commissioner's Search – AGB Search.
- ✓ The Board of Regents approved the FY 2014-2015 Funding Recommendations.

Louisiana

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## About Regents

The Board of Regents, a state agency created by the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, coordinates all public higher education in Louisiana. The Board of Regents believes that a robust public postsecondary education system is critical in order to enhance Louisiana's social and economic environment. Through statewide academic planning and review, budgeting and performance funding, research, and accountability, Regents strives to ensure that all students have access to high-quality educational opportunities.

Regents Recap is produced by the Louisiana Board of Regents Office of Public Affairs

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