

Regents Recap

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

April 30, 2006

Regents Approve 2005-06 Support Fund Award

On April 27 the Board of Regents awarded more than \$21 million from the Louisiana Educational Quality Support Fund (LEQSF) to colleges and universities statewide to fund a variety of valuable educational and research programs for FY 2005-06.

“The Support Fund has always been an important lifeline for our colleges and universities,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Joe Savoie. “Now, in light of the direct and indirect impacts of last year’s storms on our institutions all across the state, particularly in the areas of faculty quality and research infrastructure, the Support Fund will doubtlessly play a significant role in postsecondary education recovery.”

The program is funded through a permanent trust fund approved by voters in a 1986 constitutional amendment. The original \$540 million payment was part of a settlement between the state and federal governments over disputed off-shore oil and gas royalties (“8(g) fund”). The value of the trust fund has now risen to more than one billion dollars. Twenty-five percent of the earnings from the fund each year is reinvested in the fund. The Legislature appropriates half of the remaining interest earnings to the Board of Regents for higher education and the other half to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for grades K-12.

The Board of Regents component of the fund is known as the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF). The Louisiana Constitution provides that the Board of Regents may use the fund to support any or all of the following programs: 1) carefully defined research efforts, 2) endowment of chairs for eminent scholars, 3) enhancement of the quality of academic research or agricultural departments or units; and 4) recruitment of superior graduate students. The fund supplies Louisiana colleges and universities with investments targeted at quality-critical areas ranging from faculty development to scientific equipment acquisition.

The Board’s approval establishes the following award distribution:

Endowment of Chairs for Eminent Scholars - Total funding: \$3,000,000

Institutions receiving funding in this category are Grambling

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Regents Approve “K-16 Partnerships for School Reform” Grants

Four Louisiana universities will receive grants from the Board of Regents totaling more than \$2.6 million to establish partnerships aimed at improving selected underperforming elementary schools and high schools across the state. The awards, approved April 27 by the Board of Regents, will fund the most promising proposals submitted under the Board of Regents “K-16 Partnerships for School Reform” (K-16 PSR) program. The funded proposals were judged by independent, external evaluators to have the strongest potential for improving student and school performance.

“Much of Louisiana’s progress in education reform in recent years is a product of the unprecedented cooperation between the state’s postsecondary education community and our colleagues in elementary and secondary education,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. “The ‘K-16 Partnerships for School Reform’ program is a prime example of this kind of cooperation. The program makes it possible for many of our state’s ablest education experts to have a direct impact on the schools and districts with the most critical needs. I’m excited about the prospects of real, measurable success for this initiative.”

The K-16 PSR program, inspired in part by the University of New Orleans’ successful takeover of the underperforming Pierre Capdau Middle School in New Orleans two years ago, was approved in December of 2004. The Board of Regents committed at least \$1 million over three years to help Louisiana colleges of education partner with underperforming schools across the state to improve student achievement. The program targets Louisiana schools identified by the Department of Education as “Academically Unacceptable” through the state’s School Accountability System.

During 2005, Louisiana colleges and universities, in conjunction with various schools and school districts across the state, devised and submitted proposals for startup funding to support partnership activities ranging from providing a particular service (such as collaborative leadership in school planning) to undertaking a complete school takeover like the UNO-Pierre Capdau arrangement. Awards were made on a competitive basis after a thorough review of all proposals by a panel of out-of-state education experts. Funding for the program comes from the Board of Regents Support Fund, Louisiana public postsecondary education’s portion of the so-called state “8(g)” fund, which is

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Board Action - April 26-27, 2006

Program Approvals

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

Proposed New Academic Programs:

Louisiana Technical College - T. H. Harris Campus: A.A.S. in Care and Development of Young Children.
 Louisiana Technical College - Shreveport-Bossier Campus: A.A.S. in Culinary Arts and Occupations.
 Louisiana Technical College - Lafayette Campus: A.A.S. in Surgical Technology.

Progress Reports on Conditionally Approved Programs:

Southern University-Baton Rouge: Introduction - Master of Business Administration.
 Southeastern Louisiana University: B.S. in Health Studies.
 University of Louisiana-Lafayette: Master of Architecture - updated.
 Fletcher Technical Community College: Associate of General Studies, A.S. in Nursing, A.A.S. in Technical Studies, A.A.S. in Nautical Science.
 Louisiana Tech University: Doctor of Audiology.
 Louisiana Delta Community College: Associate of Applied Science in Business Technology, Associate of Science in General Science.
 South Louisiana Community College: A.A.S. in Emergency Health Science, A.S. in Criminal Justice, A.S. in Industrial Technology.

Regents Pave Way for New Health Sciences Degree Program at ULM

The University of Louisiana at Monroe will pursue the creation of a new bachelor of science degree program in health sciences. The Board of Regents approved a letter of intent to implement the program, which, alongside other benefits, will provide the opportunity for a variety of allied health para-professionals in the region to pursue enhanced credentials as clinical administrators, managers and educators – professionals in short supply in Northeast Louisiana. Full board approval of the measure is expected at tomorrow's meeting.

"The program is an excellent fit for ULM," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "There is a built-in market for a health sciences baccalaureate in the region. I'm confident that the program will attract a wide range of students with diverse health care career goals. This an excellent example of a university providing for the needs of the community in which it operates."

Funding and resources to support the new program will be supplied primarily through the redirection of resources previously attached to a ULM undergraduate program in occupational therapy, cleared today for termination by the same Regents committee. The program will be discontinued because the national accrediting body for occupational therapy programs now only accredits *graduate* programs in the discipline. ULM had determined that conversion to a master's-level OT program was impractical because of the additional resources that would have been required. According to projections by the National Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Louisiana Department of Labor and the Louisiana Healthworks Commission, Louisiana's two existing master's programs in OT, at LSU Health Sciences - Shreveport and LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, will produce a more-than-adequate supply for the state's occupational therapist needs.

The next step for ULM will be to submit to the Board of Regents a proposal for implementation of the new health sciences program.

Regents Receive Post-Katrina Forum Update

Dr. Kerry Davidson, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, reported that the Board of Regents' 2006 Post-Katrina/Rita Research and Education Forum, hosted April 2-4 in New Orleans in partnership with Louisiana EPSCoR, was a great success. Davidson said that there were 331 participants, including some 289 representative from Louisiana institutions and 17 national presenters.

Dr. Davidson also commended the work of the three individuals who served as Chair and Co-Chairs for the Forum: Dr. Robert Twilley, Director of the Wetland Biogeochemistry Institute at LSU (Chair); Dr. John Clement, Chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Tulane University; and Dr. Shirley Laska, Director of the Center for Hazards Assessment, Response and Technology (CHART) at the University of New Orleans.

LA GEAR UP Projects Detailed for Regents

Dr. Kerry Davidson reported to the Board that the LA Gear UP Summer/Academic-Year Learning Projects have grown far beyond the simple plan for summer camps first conceptualized in 2001 and that the program has become one of LA GEAR UP's most potent reform initiatives. Preliminary data indicate that the initiatives have not only elevated the academic achievement of participating students, but have also had a positive impact on student behavior, student attendance, and academic motivation.

According to Davidson, the Summer/Academic-Year Learning Projects include: (1) Summer Learning Camps, (2) Professional Development for Counselors, (3) Academic-Year Explorers Clubs, and (4) an annual Explorers Club Leadership Summit. He noted that the rising demand for the Summer Learning Camps has exceeded LA GEAR UP's current resources. During the summer of 2005, 1,200 LA GEAR UP students submitted camp applications but only 800 could be accommodated.

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

Support Fund (continued from page 1)

State University (\$600,000 for a \$1M chair - reverse match program); LSU A&M (\$800,000 for two \$1M chairs); LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans (\$400,000 for a \$1M chair); and Tulane University (\$1,200,000 for one \$1M chair and one \$2M chair).

Research and Development - Total funding: \$4,994,097 (\$2,143,886 in first-year funds)

Institutions receiving funding in this category include LSU Agricultural Center, LSU A&M, LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, LSU Health Sciences Center - Shreveport, Louisiana Tech, Southeastern, Tulane, University of LA at Lafayette, University of LA at Monroe, and UNO.

Enhancement of the Quality of Departments/Units - \$9,608,120 in first-year funds

Institutions receiving funding in this category include Baton Rouge Community College, Bossier Parish Community College, Centenary College, Delgado Community College, Dillard University, Fletcher Technical Community College, Grambling University, Louisiana Delta Community College, LSU Agricultural Center, LSU-Alexandria, LSU - Baton Rouge, LSU - Eunice, LSU - Shreveport, LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, Louisiana Tech, Loyola, McNeese, Nicholls, Northwestern, Nunez Community College, Our Lady of the Lake College, South Louisiana Community College, Southeastern, Southern University A&M, Southern University - New Orleans, Southern University - Shreveport, Tulane, Tulane Health Sciences Center, University of LA at Lafayette, University of LA at Monroe, UNO, and Xavier.

Also under this category is funding for **Endowed Professorships**, which will be awarded at a later date.

Recruitment of Superior Graduate Students - Total funding \$3,444,000

Institutions receiving funding in this category include LSU A&M, Louisiana Tech, McNeese, Southeastern Louisiana University, Tulane University, Tulane Health Sciences Center, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and UNO.

The BoRSF funds are awarded through a competitive, selective review process, incorporating the expertise of more than 400 out-of-state reviewers. For FY 2005-06, 744 proposals from 37 campuses were considered. The proposals represented a total requested first-year funding amount of more than \$55 million.

Since 1987, the BoRSF has generated \$674.7 million in new external funding for Louisiana higher education from federal, private and other non-support fund sources. An additional \$260.8 million has been generated for Endowed Chairs and Professorships, creating 233 one-million-dollar chairs and 23 two-million-dollar chairs at 24 universities across the state, as well as 1,560 endowed professorships at 36 campuses.

Grants (continued from page 1)

constitutionally dedicated to improving education.

“While many states talk about the need to engage higher education in upgrading student outcomes, the Louisiana Board of Regents has made their commitment concrete,” said Nancy Streim, University of Pennsylvania faculty member and chair of the K-16 PSR grant review panel.

“We have high expectations for funded projects,” said Kerry Davidson, Board of Regents Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs. “The leadership of each project, by July 14, 2006, will respond to a comprehensive set of stipulations which consultants have identified.” “These responses will become benchmarks for consultants to review during the spring of 2007 and annually thereafter.”

Eleven total proposals were submitted for funding consideration. More details on the KSR-16 program and specific information on the submitted proposals may be accessed at www.regents.state.la.us. Click “Sponsored Programs,” then “Consultant Reports FY 2005-06,” then “K-16 Partnerships for School Reform.”

<http://www.regents.state.la.us>.