

Regents Recap

Highlights of the Official Actions of the Louisiana Board of Regents

December 11, 2003

Governor-Elect Blanco Praises Regents, BESE Collaboration

Governor-elect Kathleen Blanco applauded the Louisiana Board of Regents and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) today for their collaborative successes in educational reform and highlighted several priorities of her administration's educational agenda. The governor-elect was a guest at a joint meeting of the two statewide education boards in Baton Rouge.

"We will continue to work to change the face of education in Louisiana for good, and our students will reap the rewards," Blanco said. "I appreciate the excellent work you have done in elementary and secondary education and in postsecondary education. I assure you that we will not stray from the path you have created. Louisiana has begun to receive national recognition for our educational reform efforts, but the measure of our success will be student performance. We've seen many pockets of success, but we still have many places of need."

Blanco said that her administration will continue to focus on pre-kindergarten education because she regards it as a key to educational and economic success. She also stressed the importance of the continuing development of Louisiana's growing Community and Technical College System, both because of its role as a postsecondary education entry point for Louisiana's students and because its success is a prerequisite for the state's four-year institutions to realize their missions.

(continued on page 2)

Better NAEP Scores Attributed To LaSIP

Improved mathematics scores for Louisiana students on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) are largely attributable to Louisiana's Systemic Initiatives Program (LaSIP), according to Dr. Richard D. Anderson, LSU Boyd Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and Senior Adviser to LaSIP. Anderson gave credit to LaSIP for the NAEP performance improvements in a presentation at the regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Board of Regents in Baton Rouge.

Dr. Anderson presented NAEP score data for fourth- and eighth-graders for the period from 1992 to 2003 (since the introduction of LaSIP). The data compared Louisiana's average NAEP scores to the national average for each year.

(continued on page 2)

Minimum Entry-Level ACT Math, English Scores Approved

The Board of Regents today approved a new system-wide policy standardizing the minimum ACT area scores required for enrollment in entry-level college English and mathematics. Beginning with the Fall 2005 semester (the same date that the new, more stringent minimum admissions standards will take effect across the state), the minimum ACT area score for both English and math will now be 18 at all Louisiana colleges and universities.

"Until now, the minimum ACT scores required to place out of developmental English or math varied widely and arbitrarily from institution to institution around the state," said Commissioner Savoie. "These new, more consistent standards bring Louisiana more in line with the southern regional average requirements. More importantly, they help ensure that students graduating from high school know what's expected of them when they enter a Louisiana public four-year university."



Roland M. Toups
Chair

Frances T. Henry
Vice Chair

Pat A. Strong
Secretary

William "Billy" Blake
Scott O. Brame
Richard E. D'Aquin
Reggie Dupré
Robert W. Levy
William "Bill" Oliver
W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr.
Virgil Robinson, Jr.

William Clifford Smith
Artis Terrell, Jr.
Adonis Ducre
Student Member

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Program Approvals

The Board of Regents today approved the following proposed academic programs and letter of intent:

Proposed Academic Programs

Grambling State University - Post-Master Certificate and Post-Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner

Fletcher Technical Community College - A.A.S. in Radiologic Technology

Proposed Letter of Intent

Louisiana Tech University - B.S. in Nanosystems Engineering

The Board of Regents today approved the following program terminations at LSU - Shreveport:
B.A. in Communications - Pre-Professional Speech Pathology
B.S. in Economics

The Board of Regents today also approved the following program reinstatement request:

University of Louisiana at Monroe - B.A. in Art and a Teaching Minor Program

Pool Fund Distribution Approved

The Board of Regents approved the second and final distribution of a total of \$5 million appropriated by the Legislature for the continued development of LCTCS and the state's two Academic Centers (in Jefferson and Rapides Parishes). In August, \$4,297,593 was distributed from the Pool Fund. Today, the remaining \$702,407 was distributed to individual campuses according to enrollment growth.

LEQTF Advisor Honored

In a special presentation, the Board of Regents honored Dr. Norman Hackerman, former president of the University of Texas at Austin and President Emeritus, Rice University, for his valuable service to Louisiana as a member of the Louisiana Educational Quality Support Fund Advisory Council.

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

Blanco (continued from page 1)

“Education is the key to economic success,” Blanco said. “Indeed, educational success *is* economic success.”

After thanking Governor-Elect Blanco for her expression of support, Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie and Superintendent of Education Cecil Picard used the opportunity presented by the joint board meeting to highlight specific PK-16 collaborative reform initiative successes. The work of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Teacher Quality received particular recognition. Among the accomplishments that resulted from the work of the Commission have been the redesign of all Louisiana teacher education programs, the streamlining of the alternate teacher certification process for non-education majors, the statewide creation of PK-16 councils, and the institution of Professional Development Schools aimed at fostering working partnerships between university colleges of education and local school districts.

LaSIP (continued from page 1)

“The data clearly shows that from 1992 to 2003 Louisiana is consistently narrowing the gap at both grade levels in mathematics, from 15 points to 8 points for grade 4, and from 17 points to 10 points for grade 8,” Dr. Anderson said. “Since LaSIP and its offshoots have been the primary change agents in mathematics, it is significant that NAEP student mathematics test results have improved so impressively over time.”

LaSIP was created in 1991 with a grant from the National Science Foundation and has received additional funding through the Board of Regents and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The program provides professional development and leadership training for middle-school teachers statewide in an effort to improve the quality of math and science education in Louisiana. The more than 7,800 Louisiana teachers who have participated in the program are currently impacting more than 350,000 Louisiana students at 1,300 schools each year.

“It’s very gratifying for LaSIP to receive this kind of validation,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. “The success of this program is a great example of what our kids can accomplish when they receive quality instruction. I congratulate [LaSIP Director] Dr. Kerry Davidson and everyone involved with LaSIP for their efforts in helping ensure that our students are taught by highly-qualified teachers.”