

Regents Recap

Highlights of the Official Actions of the Louisiana Board of Regents

February 27, 2003

Regents Voice Approval Of Executive Budget Proposal

At today's full board meeting, the Louisiana Board of Regents expressed appreciation for Governor Foster's continuing commitment to Louisiana postsecondary education. The governor's recently-announced 2003-2004 executive budget once again proposes increased state funding for higher education, primarily to cover mandated cost increases in insurance and retirement, and for civil service merit increases. Additionally, funds are proposed to support the evolving community college system and continuing implementation of the *Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education*.

"The new budget reaffirms the administration's unwavering conviction that improvement in
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Healthcare Workforce Development Funds Awarded

The Board of Regents awarded Healthcare Workforce Development funds to Southeastern Louisiana University and Delgado Community College in conjunction with the Governor's Biotechnology Initiative.

The BOR's 2002-03 budget included \$250,000 under the Biotechnology Initiative to address critical shortages in Louisiana's healthcare workforce, particularly in nursing.

SLU and Delgado were awarded \$125,000 each to fund their collaborative proposals. SLU plans to admit additional students into its clinical program for the upcoming academic year. The university will also admit LPN students into its summer bridge program, accelerating completion of the BSN for these students by up to two semesters.

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Commissioner's Performance Rated Exemplary

The Board of Regents rated as "exemplary" the job performance of Commissioner of Higher Education Joe Savoie. Commissioner Savoie underwent his annual performance evaluation in a session of the Board's Executive Committee yesterday.

Today the Board voted unanimously to commend the Commissioner for his service and job performance and approved a 5.27% salary adjustment, with the housing and expense allowance to remain in compliance with Board policy.

Sponsored Programs

New EPSCoR Director Named

The Board of Regents approved the appointment of Dr. Michael Khonsari as the new EPSCoR Project Director in Sponsored Programs.

Dr. Khonsari holds the Dow Chemical Endowed Chair in Rotating Machinery in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at LSU in Baton Rouge. He has an extensive research and publication record.

EPSCoR is the Louisiana Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, a federal-state program whose objective is to strengthen targeted research and development relevant to the state and the diversification of its economy. LA EPSCoR is funded by the National Science Foundation and the Board of Regents Support Fund.

Dr. Khonsari holds a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

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E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Executive Budget (continued from page 1)

postsecondary education is critical to the state's long-term economic and social progress," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joe Savoie, speaking for the entire Board.

Healthcare Workforce (continued from page 1)

Delgado plans to increase enrollment in its LPN, LPN-to-RN track, and generic Associate Degree - Nursing (ADN) programs. The funds will be used for additional nursing faculty, student recruitment, support costs and equipment.

Sponsored Programs (continued from page 1)

Revised EPSCoR Subcommittee Membership Policy Approved

Regents approved the restructuring of the Louisiana EPSCoR subcommittee membership policy in an effort to ensure that the subcommittee includes broad representation from the state's scientific and engineering research community.

The action adds new voting members from campuses having a three-year federal R&D expenditure average of at least \$4 million.

Under the new rules, the following institutions become eligible and were approved by the Board for subcommittee membership: Tulane Health Sciences Center, LSU Health Sciences Center, Pennington Biomedical Research Center and LSU Agricultural Center.

Matching Funds Committed To NSF/PFI Program

The Board of Regents voted today to commit a cash match from previously unspent monies in the BOR Support Fund for "Partnerships For Innovation" (PFI) proposals which are successful in receiving federal funds under the program.

PFI partnership proposals are solicited by the National Science Foundation for the purpose of involving universities, state/local/federal government and the private sector in partnerships that stimulate the transformation of knowledge into innovations to create wealth and spur economic growth. The BOR match is not to exceed 5% of the annual amount of requested NSF funding. **Proposals must be submitted to the NSF by April 9, 2003.**

New Programs Funded Through EPSCoR

The Board of Regents approved funding for three proposals submitted under EPSCoR's "Planning Grants for Major Initiatives" component. This EPSCoR component is aimed at advancing scientific and engineering interests among Louisiana's diverse higher education community by emphasizing collaboration and resource sharing.

The Board approved a total of \$150,000 to fund the following three proposals:

1. Planning for a Biosystems Nanomanufacturing Research and Development Center - Louisiana Tech (\$50,000)
2. CERT Institution for Biomedical Informatics Planning Project - LSU-Shreveport (\$50,000)
3. Center for Next Generation Machinery - LSU A&M (\$50,000)

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