

# Regents Recap

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

January 31, 2004

## Regents Swear In New Member, Elect Officers

Dr. Harold Stokes was sworn in at the Regents' January 5 meeting as the newest member of the Louisiana Board of Regents. Stokes, a native of Alhambra, California, is a board-certified orthopaedic/hand surgeon who resides in New Orleans. He is a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, the Southern Orthopaedic Association, and the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association.



New Board of Regents Member Dr. Harold M. Stokes

The Board also elected officers for 2005 as follows: Roland Toups, Chair; Frances Henry, Vice Chair; and Pat Strong, Secretary.

The new membership of the Executive Committee will be as follows: Roland Toups, Richard D'Aquin; Frances Henry, Robert Levy, Pat Strong, Virgil Robinson and Scott Brame

Frances Henry and Pat Strong were named to the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission.

## Report To Regents Lauds Rapid Implementation of Teacher Quality Improvement Efforts

In just four years, Louisiana has successfully implemented a broad spectrum of teacher quality improvement measures that experts said would require twice that much time. That was the message to the Board of Regents today during a meeting of the Regents' Academic and Student Affairs Committee on January 26. Jeanne Burns, Regents Associate Commissioner of Academic Affairs for Teacher Education Initiatives, told the Board that the recent recognition of Louisiana teacher quality improvement initiatives in *Education Week's* "Quality Counts" report as the best in the nation was proof positive that Louisiana's teacher quality reform efforts are having a significant impact. In the *Education Week* report, Louisiana's efforts received an "A," jumping from number five in 2004 to number one in 2005. Nearly as impressive, the state's initiatives to improve school and student performance also received an "A," coming in at number two for 2005, trailing only New York.

Burns said that in 2000, Michael Fullan, a nationally-recognized expert in education reform meeting with the state's Blue Ribbon Commission on Teacher Quality, told the group that it generally took higher education eight years to implement comprehensive education reforms such as those being proposed by the group.

"This warning was issued soon after the Governor, Board of Regents, and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education received a \$3.2 million Title II Teacher Quality Enhancement State Grant to support the implementation of 40 actions that had been recommended by the Blue Ribbon Commission to more effectively recruit, prepare, and retain effective teachers," Burns said. "Today the state has shown that it *is* possible for higher education to implement comprehensive educational reforms in teacher education in just four years, half the predicted time. And these efforts have had a positive impact upon the nation's perceptions about Louisiana as evidenced by *Education Week's* Quality Counts 2005 report."

Burns added that these efforts have also had a positive impact on the placement of teachers holding standard teaching certificates in classrooms in Louisiana, and noted the following encouraging statistics:

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**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**  
**Stanley J. Jacobs**  
**Robert W. Levy**

**W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr.**  
**Virgil Robinson, Jr.**  
**William Clifford Smith**  
**Harold M. Stokes**  
**Artis Terrell, Jr.**  
**Jeraul Mackey**  
Student Member

**E. Joseph Savoie**  
Commissioner of  
Higher Education

## Board Action - January 26-27, 2005

### Program Approvals

The Board approved the following proposed new academic programs, letter of intent, progress report and administrative revision:

#### Proposed New Academic Programs:

L. E. Fletcher Technical Community College - A.A.S. in Nautical Science; A.A.S. in Technical Studies.

Sowela Technical Community College - Associate of General Studies.

#### Letter of Intent

Louisiana State University and A&M College, University of New Orleans, and Southern University - Baton Rouge - Collaborative Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering

#### Progress Report on Conditionally Approved Program -

Louisiana Tech University - Doctor of Audiology

#### Administrative Revision -

Southeastern Louisiana University - Reorganization of the College of Arts and Sciences

### Statewide Review of LPN Programs Set To Begin

Gerard Killebrew, Associate Commissioner of Academic Affairs, reported to the Board that the selection of consultants for the first round of on-site visits to affected campuses for the statewide review of Licensed Practical Nursing programs has been completed. These visits will begin next month and run through April. Additional on-site reviews are being scheduled for May-July, 2005.

### Regents Receive LONI Update, Approve Staff Position

Dr. Les Guice, Chair of the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council and Vice President for Research/Development at Louisiana Tech University, provided the Board with an update on the implementation of the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI). Guice indicated that various network management issues were being explored, but that it has been determined that there is an immediate and long-term need for some additional staff resources to assist the Management Council as the LONI initiative progresses. Dr. Guice recommended that authorization be granted to employ a Senior Optical Network Engineer to assist in the operations of the LONI network. The Board granted approval.

### Teacher Quality Improvement (continued from page 1)

The percentage of teachers holding standard teaching certificates in Louisiana has increased from 84.39% in 2001-2002 to a high of 90.79% in 2003-2004.

The overall passage rates for program completers from Louisiana's universities on the state teacher certification examinations (PRAXIS) have increased from 89% for 1999-2000 to 99% for 2002-2003 program completers.

The overall number of teacher candidates who completed public and private Teacher Preparation Programs in Louisiana meeting all state certification requirements increased from 2,075 in 2001-2002 to 2,265 in 2002-2003.

"The recognition by *Education Week* is further confirmation that the work our college and university faculties and administrators across the state continue to do to improve the quality of instruction in our teacher preparation programs – and, as a result, to improve learning opportunities for our state's school children – is making a real difference," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie.

**For more information on these and other  
Board of Regents actions, please visit our website at  
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