

Regents Recap

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

June 30, 2005

Regents Measures Encourage College Access, Success Through Dual Enrollment

At its June meeting, the Board of Regents considered several agenda items aimed at reinforcing the growing effort by Louisiana's colleges and universities to foster early access to college *and* a higher likelihood of student success in college through *dual enrollment*. Dual enrollment programs allow high school students to enroll in college courses and earn both college and high school credit. Dual enrollment courses can be offered on a college campus or at a high school and may be taught by college faculty or specially-certified high school faculty with college-level instructional credentials.

"Dual enrollment has historically been targeted at more academically-advanced students, who are generally regarded as more capable of performing at the college level," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "However, it's becoming clear that a broader range of students can benefit from such programs."

Savoie said that research has shown that postsecondary education success is predicated on both rigorous academic preparation and a clear understanding of the expectations of college life. Blurring the distinction between high school and college can help students be more successful in this transition.

"Dual enrollment provides a multitude of benefits for the student, the student's family, and the state. The practice not only can provide a student with a head start on college, but it can also encourage a student to stay in high school and graduate, which is in itself good news," Savoie said. "Moreover, since dual enrollment can shorten the time to college graduation, it provides an economic benefit to the student and to his or her family by allowing them to avoid some tuition expenses."

With these advantages in mind, the Board approved a comprehensive statewide policy establishing standards for dual enrollment agreements between high schools and colleges (as well as for co-enrollment agreements between and among postsecondary institutions). In large part, the policy codifies the process by which colleges and universities can partner with local high schools to help put students on the fast track to academic success.

The Board also approved the distribution of \$75,000 from the

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New Toll-Free Number Offers College Admissions Information

The Board of Regents has established a toll-free number for prospective students seeking information about admission to any of Louisiana's public colleges and universities. The number is **1-866-415-2269**. Those who call the number Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m and 6:00 p.m. will be able to speak with a Regents staff member who can provide answers to questions on everything from minimum admissions requirements for a given institution, to which campuses offer specific degree programs. Those who call the number after regular operational hours may leave their contact information and question(s) on voice mail and can expect a return call within one business day.

"With Louisiana's new four-year-campus admission requirements taking full effect this fall, the Regents wanted to make the transition as easy as possible for students across the state," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "We've designed this service so that potential students, parents or anyone with a need for this information can have their questions answered as quickly as possible and can make informed choices about their educational futures, whether they plan

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Board Action - June 22-23, 2005

Program Approvals

The Board of Regents approved the following new academic program and curricular revision:

New Academic Program: Louisiana Tech University - Graduate Certificate in Technical Writing and Communication.

Curricular Revision: Nicholls State University - Request to Terminate the A.S. in Chemical Laboratory Technology.

Regents Approve General Education, Business Articulation Matrices

The Board of Regents approved the *2005-2006 General Education Articulation Matrix and Student Transfer Guide* and the *2005-06 Business Articulation Matrix and Student Transfer Guide*.

It was reported to the Board that during the current year, Regents staff had fully implemented an annual articulation cycle, during which the Board's Articulation Committees meet in February, seek campus agreement and resolve related issues during March and April, and present drafts to the Board of Regents in either May or June. In addition, it was reported that a web-based system had been developed that campuses may use for recommending additions or amendments to the matrix and for electronic interaction between campuses.

The General Education and Business matrices had been endorsed by the Regents' Statewide Council of Chief Academic Officers in May. Following this action, the matrices had been presented to and endorsed by the Boards of Supervisors of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System and the Southern University System. The new matrices are scheduled to be considered in the near future by the University of Louisiana System Board and the Louisiana State University System Board. After final edits are completed, these matrices will be available online.

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

Student Board Member Sworn In

At the June meeting, the Board of Regents swore in its 2005-06 student board member, Chris Jividen. Chris is Student Government Association president at Bossier Parish Community College. A native of the Chicago area, Chris moved with his family to Haughton, Louisiana, seven years ago when his father was transferred with his company. Chris is majoring in business at BPCC and plans to transfer to Northwestern Louisiana University and pursue a degree in finance.

Dual Enrollment Policy Approved

The Board approved a new policy (Policy 2.19 - Responsibilities and Requirements for the Enrollment of Students Across Multiple Institutions) which codifies statewide postsecondary education responsibilities and requirements for agreements covering enrollment of students between and among multiple campuses (see story on page 1 for background on dual enrollment). While Board members recognized that the new policy does not address significant financial issues (including tuition and state funding) which will have to be resolved later, they shared the view of both Regents staff and the statewide Council of Chief Academic Officers that institutions should be required to abide by the policy's principles immediately.

Regents Receive Undergraduate Enrollment Projections For Fall

Dr. Jimmy Clarke, Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, reported to the Board that undergraduate enrollment is expected to be relatively stable this fall, according to projections developed by Noel-Levitz as part of the state's strategic enrollment project. Undergraduate enrollment at the state's public four-year campuses is expected to decline by 2,076 (1.6%), while enrollment at two-year institutions is expected to increase by 1,443, yielding a statewide decline of 633 (0.4%). Potentially larger declines in undergraduate enrollment are projected to be offset by increased retention.

Due to a lack of historical data, the two-year enrollment projections do not include L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College, Sowela Technical Community College, or the Louisiana Technical College. Enrollment growth at these three institutions will further offset the overall decline.

Dual Enrollment (continued from page 1)

Community and Technical College and Learning Center Growth and Development Fund to help support a unique pilot program at Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) that will offer selected students in East Baton Rouge Parish the opportunity to combine their high school experience with the first two years of college. Under the BRCC Early College High School Pilot Program, a student can be simultaneously awarded both a high school diploma *and* an associate's degree in liberal arts or in an occupational, technical, or professional field.

"The BRCC program gets at the heart of increasing a commodity our state sorely needs: more college graduates," Savoie said. "If we can get more students thinking about college during their high school years, even working toward their degrees while in high school, then we're moving in the right direction. I commend BRCC on this innovative program."

In a related action, the Board also endorsed a measure passed by the Legislature creating the TOPS Tech "Early Start" program. This program will help high school students earn degree credit from the Louisiana Technical College that will result in industry certification in a high-demand technical field upon graduation from high school.

Toll-Free Number (continued from page 1)

to start their college careers at one of our fourteen four-year campuses or opt for one of our convenient community or technical colleges."

Effective with the upcoming fall 2005 semester, most of Louisiana's four-year universities will implement minimum admissions requirements, an important component of Louisiana's "Master Plan For Public Postsecondary Education." A primary goal of the Master Plan is to both increase *access* to postsecondary education and improve student *success* once enrolled. Key to accomplishing these objectives are the new admission requirements and the ongoing development of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

The new admissions requirements for four-year institutions include successful completion of the Regents Core Curriculum and *one* of the following: a specified minimum grade-point average, ACT score *or* class ranking. These requirements will vary according to the institution. In addition to the Regents' new toll-free number, campus-specific details on the 2005 admission requirements and additional information on Louisiana's public colleges and universities are available at the Board of Regents website: www.regents.state.la.us.

Board Action - June 22-23, 2005 (continued)**Regents Receive Update on Program to Assist Underperforming Schools**

Dr. Kerry Davidson, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, updated the Board on developments regarding the Regents' "K-16 Partnerships for School Reform" program. The program targets Louisiana schools identified by the Department of Education as "Academically Unacceptable" through the state's School Accountability System. The Regents' program is funded through the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF). Under the program, colleges and universities, in conjunction with the schools and school districts in question, will submit proposals for catalytic (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.

Davidson reported that Regents staff plans a fall 2005 workshop in collaboration with BESE and the Department of Education, which will focus on integration and leveraging of funds and programs at each school site being targeted by campuses developing proposals. Dr. Davidson also apprised the Board of follow-up actions taken by BESE, indicating "support for the project" and a commitment to consider "allocating BESE 8(g) funds to support the K-16 Partnerships for School Reform Program in the future."