

# Regents Recap

Highlights of the Official Actions of the Louisiana Board of Regents

September 24, 2003

## Regents Announce Gubernatorial Runoff Education Forum

Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie today announced a gubernatorial runoff forum to focus on education at all levels in Louisiana. The forum, to be hosted jointly by Louisiana Public Broadcasting, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Board of Regents, will be broadcast live from LPB's studios in Baton Rouge on October 8, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

"This forum will be a great opportunity to ensure that education reform remains at the forefront of campaign issues during the runoff," said Savoie. "We've got an excellent panel of journalists who are particularly knowledgeable about Louisiana education. I expect the forum to provide significant insight into what we can expect from each candidate in terms of maintaining the considerable education reform momentum Louisiana has enjoyed under the Foster administration."

## All-Board Leadership Forum Set For October 9

An All-Board Leadership Forum was announced at today's Board of Regents meeting. The forum has been planned to provide an opportunity for all of Louisiana's public postsecondary education boards to discuss issues and concerns related to implementation of the new four-year admissions criteria and to discuss future opportunities and challenges for Louisiana education.

At the forum luncheon Louisiana's education community will honor Governor Mike Foster and his team for their record of strong support for education at all levels.

The All-Board Leadership Forum is scheduled for October 9, at the Pennington Conference Center in Baton Rouge, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## Fall 2003 Enrollment Sets Record

The Board today announced that total enrollment at public colleges and universities in the state is up this year, marking a new record-high statewide enrollment. This year 210,635 students are attending Louisiana's four-year universities and community and technical colleges, a 3% increase over last fall's numbers. Data indicates that freshmen enrollment is up statewide by 5.67%.

"The enrollment trends show that our colleges and universities continue to serve a vital and expanded role in preparing our citizens for the world of work in today's knowledge economy. I am particularly pleased to see our four-year institutions working to attract better-prepared students through enhanced admission standards, while our community and technical colleges are providing access to college and solid workforce preparation for record numbers of new students," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie.



**Roland M. Toups**  
Chair

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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 "Bubba" Rasberry, Jr.**  
**Virgil Robinson, Jr.**

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

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

## Board Approves Small Capital, Alternative Financing Projects, Preliminary Capital Outlay Recommendations

The Board of Regents today approved the following small capital projects for 2003-2004:

- University of Louisiana at Lafayette - Chimpanzee Housing Facility (\$330,000)
- Northwestern Louisiana University - Soccer Complex Lighting (\$165,000)
- Nicholls State University - Biology Phase II Renovation (\$197,260)
- Louisiana State University A&M - Student Union Fire Alarm System Replacement (\$300,000)

Under projects using alternative means of financing, the Board approved in principal an innovative plan by the Southern University System to finance housing construction at all three of its campuses through a system-level bond issue, the details of which are being formulated.

The Board also approved the preliminary 2004-2005 Capital Outlay recommendations. Because of the current project backlog, the budget included a very limited number of new projects.

## BOR Meeting Webcast Pilot Underway

Today's Board of Regents meeting marked the first time that live video of a Board of Regents meeting has been available on the internet. During the pilot phase of the Regents "streaming video" project, the webcasts will be available only to postsecondary system offices. However, the Board plans to make the webcast available to the general public in the very near future.

## Chancellor O'Brien Honored By Board

UNO Chancellor Greg O'Brien, who will leave his current position and return to the classroom this year, was honored by the Board of Regents today with a resolution read by Regents Chairman Roland Toups. The resolution acknowledged O'Brien's tireless service to the university and to Louisiana postsecondary education during his sixteen-year tenure as UNO's chancellor.

## Program Approvals

The Board of Regents today approved the following academic programs and research centers:

### Proposed Academic Program - Conditional Approval

LTC-Ascension - A.A.S. in Process Control Technology (in collaboration with River Parishes Community College)

### Conditionally-approved programs receiving final five-year approval:

LSU-A&M - Hurricane Center  
 LSU-A&M - Center for Rotating Machinery  
 LSU-Shreveport - Red River Watershed Management Institute

The Board also approved a recommendation to terminate the following programs at Delgado Community College:

Certificate in Electronics Repair  
 A.A.S in Electrical Service Technology-Electronics Repair

## Prestridge Named To Proprietary School Advisory Board

Former Regents member Mickey Prestridge was today appointed by the Board of Regents to serve on the Louisiana Proprietary School Advisory Board. Prestridge, of Shreveport, fills a new Regents spot created in the 2003 Legislative Session.

**For more information on these and other Board of Regents actions, please visit our website at [www.regents.state.la.us](http://www.regents.state.la.us).**