

# Regents Recap

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

September 2007

## CALL Adult learning Initiative Expands to Four New Campuses

The Board of Regents-sponsored adult learning initiative known as CALL (Continuum for All Louisiana Learners), piloted this past year in the northwestern region of the state, has been expanded to include campuses in nearly every geographic region for 2008-09. Details of the expansion were provided in a report to the Board of Regents.

The CALL initiative, aimed largely at adult learners already in the workforce who have some college credit but never earned a degree, allows participants to earn a degree in selected disciplines online and, in many cases, through accelerated courses. The program also has a prior learning assessment component, which offers students the opportunity to earn degree credit for college-level learning they may have acquired while on the job through the evaluation of a portfolio or by passing a departmental or national examination.

Since last January, CALL has been piloted at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches and Bossier Parish Community College, near Shreveport. The success of the program so far in attracting adults back to college prompted the Regents to solicit proposals for expansion to four additional campuses. The new campuses selected for CALL include the University of Louisiana – Monroe, Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, McNeese State University in Lake Charles, and LSU-Eunice.

“If Louisiana is going to significantly increase our population of college-educated citizens, which is critical to our long-term economic viability, we need to attract students from all sources,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. “The success of the CALL program so far shows that many working adults are eager to earn degrees if we can streamline that process. I fully expect CALL to be even more successful as we expand it, both in terms of geography and program offerings.”

## Statewide Enrollment Recovery Continues

According to preliminary campus reports submitted to the Board of Regents, fall enrollment statewide at Louisiana’s public colleges and universities is up some 2,500 students over the fall of 2006. Total statewide enrollment stands at 197,922, compared to 195,380 last fall. Most of the growth occurred at Louisiana’s two-year institutions. Many four-year campuses reported a slight dip in enrollment.

“We’re glad to see our enrollment recovery continue,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. “The figures show enrollment on four-year campuses basically stable, down perhaps 2% or so, with nearly a 12% increase at our community and technical colleges. Storm impact notwithstanding, these figures are consistent with our expectations of the impact of the four-year admission requirements implemented in 2005. The idea then and now to improve the academic preparation level of freshmen enrolling at our four-year universities and enroll a higher percentage of our college freshman at two-year campuses, where they can be educated more economically and have a higher likelihood of success. These figures, coupled with higher average ACT scores of first-time freshmen at our four-year universities, show that we’re accomplishing just that.”

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## Arceneaux Honored

Former Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education William Arceneaux (second from left) was honored by the Regents on September 27 for his years of service to higher education both as Commissioner and as Executive Director of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Arceneaux retired in September. Regents Richard D’Aquin and Pat Strong, along with current Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie, are also pictured.



**The next Board of Regents meeting will be held October 24-25, 2007**



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*E. Joseph Savoie*  
Commissioner of  
Higher Education

## Board Action - September 26-27, 2007

### Program Approvals

The Board of Regents approved the following letters of intent, proposed administrative unit, proposed program terminations, and reports on conditionally approved programs.

### Proposed Letters of Intent

Northwestern State University: M.S. in Radiologic Sciences

Southeastern Louisiana University: B.S. in Engineering Technology

University of Louisiana-Lafayette: B.A. in Cinema Studies

### Proposed Administrative Unit

Louisiana State University Health Science Center: Department of Oral and Craniofacial Biology

### Proposed Program Terminations

Grambling State University: B.S. in Industrial Arts Education; B.S. in Family and Consumer Science Education

### Reports on Conditionally Approved Programs

University of Louisiana-Lafayette/Southeastern Louisiana University: Ed.D. in Educational Leadership

Southern University-Shreveport: A.S. in Nursing

Louisiana State University-Alexandria: B.S. in Psychology

Southern University and A & M College: Master of Engineering

Louisiana State University-Shreveport: Master of Health Administration

Nicholls State University: B.S. in Manufacturing Engineering Technology

### Regents Receive Report on EPSCoR Activities

Dr. Michael Konsari, Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Research and Development and EPSCoR Project Director, reported to the Board on recent EPSCoR activities. Khonsari noted that the National Science Foundation established the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) in 1978 in response to Congressional concerns over the uneven distribution of federal research funds.

Khonsari explained briefly the history of the funding received through EPSCoR and the NSF-EPSCoR co-funding for Louisiana since 2000. He addressed the recently funded Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Award, which has two parts: Statewide enhancement activities and a Cyberinfrastructure Research Component.

Statewide enhancement activities include grant-writing seminars and workshops, planning grants for major initiatives; links with industry, research centers and national laboratories; pilot funding for new initiatives and travel grants for emerging faculty.

The research component focuses on the development of a multifunctional cyberinfrastructure to enable significant advances in modern science and engineering. This three-year project begins October 1, 2007 and involves LSU, LSUHSC-NO, LA Tech, SUBR, Tulane, Tulane HSC, UL-Lafayette, UNO, and Xavier.

### K-16 Partnerships for School Reform Program Moves Forward

Inspired by the University of New Orleans's effort to aid a struggling K-12 school in the New Orleans area, the Board funded four projects in the spring of 2006 to encourage development of other campus/school reform projects. The projects underwent a rigorous assessment of their first-year activities during June 2007. According to Dr. Davidson, the projects' high promise and significant challenges were identified and discussed.

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

**Enrollment (from page 1)**

Savoie said that Louisiana’s enrollment at two-year colleges as a proportion of overall enrollment still lags well behind national and regional averages, but that the state is making encouraging progress. An array of new state efforts is aimed at improving enrollment at all institutions.

“We’re still down about 16,000 students overall compared to pre-storm enrollments,” Savoie said. “That’s one of the reasons why we’ve taken several measures this year to attract more students of all ages to our campuses. Those measures include the new *GO Grant* financial aid program for low-to moderate-income students, the CALL adult learning initiative and the expansion of our dual enrollment program for high school students.”

A graph depicting Louisiana’s enrollment trend in recent years follows below.

