

August 27, 2014



Regents Recap

Regents Makes Progress toward Master Plan's Research Investment Goal

Baton Rouge, LA- The Regents' 2012 Master Plan for Higher Education commits universities to strategically identify research areas which show promise for innovation and commercialization in Louisiana. As a result of Battelle's 2012-13 study sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, five target areas were identified: **Advanced Manufacturing and Materials, Clean Technology and Energy, Coastal and Water Management, Digital Media and Enterprise Software, and Life Sciences and Bioengineering.** Joint university/LED Task Forces are pinpointing priorities within each target area.

Based on staff recommendations presented today by Dr. Kerry Davidson, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, on the advice of Dr. Les Guice, President of Louisiana Tech University and Chair of the Master Plan Research Advisory Committee (MPRAC), and Dr. Michael Khonsari, the Regents Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Research and MPRAC Vice Chair, the approval of these actions assure that by November an external review committee will recommend targeted statewide priorities from those proposed by the five Task Forces. Regents and other stakeholders will then be in a position to act on these research-directed economic development opportunities.

"This is truly a step in the right direction," said Regents Chairman, W. Clinton Rasberry. "Targeting investments in university research, and working collaboratively with key agencies of government and the private sector, will help drive Louisiana's economy into the future."

Visit the following link to access a copy of the Master Plan for Postsecondary Education in Louisiana:

http://regents.louisiana.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/MasterPlan_Revised_04-12.pdf

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Regents Reports High Federal Returns on Investment of Support Fund Dollars

Today, the Board of Regents reported that since 1987, there has been almost \$57 million in Support Fund matches for EPSCoR projects funded by six Federal agencies. These agencies include National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Institutes of Health, Department of Energy, Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Commerce.

“These six agencies only begin to capture the pervasive effects on research and education within Louisiana,” said Dr. Kerry Davidson, Deputy Commissioner of Sponsored Programs. “Resulting initiatives have directly impacted students and faculty at four-year campuses and community colleges across the State.”

Dr. Michael Khonsari, Associate Commissioner of Sponsored Programs, announced additional recent awards which continue this impressive trend:

- A collaborative project, between Louisiana and Mississippi to establish the Smart MATerials Design, Analysis, and Processing (SMATDAP) consortium (NSF EPSCoR Track 2). Federal funds awarded: \$3.251 million;
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) discovery camps for students and teachers that can be replicated across the State (NSF EPSCoR Track 3). Federal funds awarded: \$749,000; and
- A Department of Energy project entitled “Building Neutron Scattering Infrastructure in Louisiana for Advanced Materials,” which seeks to build a regional base of users of the Spallation Neutron Source and High Flux Isotope Reactor at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Federal funds awarded: \$4.949 million.

Collectively these three awards bring almost \$9 million to Louisiana.

“We are extremely pleased with the leveraging of Support Fund and Federal dollars,” said Tom Layzell, Senior Advisor to the Board. “This has been major for research and education in Louisiana with significant long-term impact.”

Third Annual Review of Master Plan Yields Positive Growth for LA Higher Education

The Board of Regents announced significant progress in meeting the goals outlined in the Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education in Louisiana: 2011.

In the first three years of Master Plan implementation:

- Louisiana’s high school graduation rate increased to its highest point in the State’s history (73.5%).
- The percentage of the high school graduating class completing Louisiana’s college-prep curriculum increased from 65.8% to 76.7%.
- The number of high school students enrolled in college courses increased 10%.
- The number of distance education programs offered 50%-99% and 100% online by public colleges and universities increased from 307 to 376.
- The number of students enrolled in a Louisiana Transfer Degree program increased by 1,300% from 214 to 3,047.
- Statewide 1st to 2nd year retention rates have remained stable at 74%.
- Statewide graduation rates at both two-year and four-year institutions increased from 5.7% to 6.9% and from 42.2% to 47.7%, respectively.
- The total number of graduates has increased 8.3%.

Regents Highlights

- ✓ The Board of Regents approved the following Academic Affairs items:
 - Letters of Intent
 - Master of Science in Nursing (ULM)
 - Master of Public Administration (ULM)
 - Proposed New Programs (Conditional Approval)
 - AAS in Technical Studies (NWLTC)
 - AAS in Business Administration (SLCC)
 - BS in Healthcare Management (UNO)
 - BS in Health Systems Management (SLU and McNeese)
 - Proposed New Programs (Approved)
 - GC in Coastal Sciences and GC in Coastal Engineering (UNO)
 - Termination Requests
 - BS in Engineering Technology (McNeese)
 - GC in Rural Development (Tech)
 - Center of Excellence for Arthritis & Rheumatology (CEAR)
 - Consent Agenda Items:
 - Initial Conditional Approval: Leadership Development Institute (LSU A&M)
 - Reauthorization: Center for Nursing Research in Education and Practice (SLU)
 - Reauthorization: Professional Development & Research Institute of Blindness (LA Tech)
 - Routine Staff Reports (received)
 - Staff Approval of Routine Academic Requests
 - Progress Reports for Conditionally Approved Units
 - Past Due Reports
 - Letters of Intent\Proposals in Queue
- ✓ The Board of Regents approved the following Facilities and Property Committee Items:
 - Consent Agenda Items - Small Capital Projects Report (LSU A&M)
 - Business Education Complex Donor Signage
 - David Boyd Hall – Exterior Stucco Repairs
 - J.C. Miller Classroom Upgrades
 - U-High Cub Complex – Baseball Synthetic Turf
 - LSU-E- Health & Physical Education Building Roof Replacement
 - LSU HSC-NO 1st Floor Lobby Renovation (School of Nursing/Allied Health)
 - BoR FY 2015-2016 Capital Outlay Site Visit Update & Schedule
- ✓ The Board of Regents received an Interim Emergency Board Request Update (SUBR Road Failure)
- ✓ The Board of Regents approved the following Sponsored Programs Committee items:
 - Master Plan Research Advisory
 - Regents/NASA LaSpace program
 - Smart Materials Design, Analysis, and Processing consortium
 - STEM Discovery Camps
 - Building Neutron Scattering Infrastructure in Louisiana for Advanced Materials
 - August 2014 NSF EPSCoR Track 1 Five-Year Proposal

- ✓ The Board of Regents approved the following Planning, Research and Performance Committee Items:

- Initial Licenses

- Arkansas Tech University
- Bellevue University
- Duquesne University
- Rutgers University
 - License Renewals
- Remington College
- University of Southern California

- Initial Licenses – Proprietary Schools

- Advance Nursing Training, LLC
- Digital Media Institute at Intertech

- Notice of Intent to amend proprietary schools rules and regulations
- An update on the Third Annual Review of the Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education in Louisiana: 2011.

- Louisiana’s State Application for SARA and authorized the staff to submit it on the Board’s behalf to the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) SARA Steering Committee.

- Additional optional Targeted Measures for the law centers and authorize staff to negotiate with each law center Year 5 benchmarks and Year 6 targets for each of the chosen Measures.

- ✓ The Board of Regents denied the request from Divine Touch Healthcare Training, LLC to pay a late fee and file a renewal application.
- ✓ The Board of Regents adopted a resolution acknowledging DOTD’s assistance with repairing the collapsed road at Southern.
- ✓ The Board of Regents appointed a special committee to collaborate with the Southern University Board of Supervisors to focus on improving the performance of Southern’s institutions. Those members are:
William Fenstermaker
Bob Levy
Richard Lipsey
Ed Markle
Albert Sam
Joe Wiley
- ✓ The Board of Regents received a status update on the WISE Council.

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About Regents

The Board of Regents, a state agency created by the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, coordinates all public higher education in Louisiana. The Board of Regents believes that a robust public postsecondary education system is critical in order to enhance Louisiana’s social and economic environment. Through statewide academic planning and review, budgeting and performance funding, research, and accountability, Regents strives to ensure that all students have access to high-quality educational opportunities.

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