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**REGENTS PRESENTS MASTER PLAN VISION TO HOUSE
EDUCATION**

Ties its legislative package to goal of doubling the numbers

BATON ROUGE, La. –Board of Regents members joined Commissioner of Higher Education Kim Hunter Reed today in the House of Representative’s Education Committee as she presented the highlights of the board’s Master Plan visioning document adopted by Regents during their regular meeting. This year, Regents has tied its legislative package to the overarching goal of the Master Plan; doubling the number of working adults with a credential of value by the year 2030. Currently, Louisiana’s colleges and universities produce approximately 40,000 credentials annually but will need to reach 85,000 per year to meet the needs a rapidly changing economy.

“If higher education is to fulfill its mission of increasing opportunity and social mobility, we must craft a new policy agenda that puts student outcomes first,” said Commissioner Reed. “This Master Plan lays out a clear goal of doubling the number of credentials by focusing on student populations that have, for far too long, been overlooked. We must expand opportunity for Louisiana to prosper.”

“We know that we can’t just focus on the traditional college student of the past and reach our ambitious goal,” said Board of Regents Chairman Marty J. Chabert. “We have to recruit first-generation students, working parents in need of training, adults in rural areas, foster youth, incarcerated individuals and veterans if we are going to move the needle in our state.”

To drive the outcomes outlined in the Master Plan, Regents’ 2019 legislative package includes several pieces of legislation aimed specifically at access and affordability for students.

· SB 117 (Sen. Mike Walsworth) **AFFORDABLE TEXTBOOKS**
Increases college affordability and student success through the utilization of open education resources. Provides cost transparency to students when registering for classes by marking which courses exclusively use low-or-no cost course materials.

- SB 194 (Senator Blade Morrish) DUAL ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITY
Creates a statewide framework designed to provide equitable access to dual enrollment courses to eligible and interested high school juniors and seniors.

- SCR 42 (Senator Conrad Appel) WORK-BASED LEARNING TASK FORCE
Creates the Work-Based Learning Task Force to address workforce shortages and better prepare students for 21st century jobs by developing a framework to implement work-based learning opportunities by connecting industry with education.

- HB 294 (Representative Barbara Carpenter) SEXUAL ASSAULT CLIMATE SURVEYS
Amends current law to allow for increased response rates and broader utility of the anonymous sexual assault climate surveys administered by postsecondary education campuses.

- HB 562 (Representative Julie Emerson & Senator Blade Morrish) PROPRIETARY SCHOOLS LAW UPDATE
Rewrites the existing proprietary school statute to eliminate ambiguity and redundancy, provide clarity and promote student consumer protection.

- HB 576 (Representative Jerome Zeringue) LUMCON & LOUIS CARRYOVER AUTHORITY
Ensures cash flow stability for the LA Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) and the LA Library Network (LOUIS) by codifying the authority to carry over interagency transfers and self-generated revenue.

In addition to the package of bills outlined above, Regents is also prioritizing its budget request to legislators in an effort to align its strategic investments towards affordability and innovation; two pillars within the Master Plan. Currently, HB 105 maintains funding for higher education at FY 2019 levels. Regents' budget priorities include:

- Preventing fee increases for students,
- Reducing student costs through initiatives including online electronic resources,
- Supporting financial aid program for adult students,
- Funding TOPS increase,
- Funding need-based aid (Go Grants), and
- Providing funds for accreditation, specialized units and college access outreach.

“Our Master Plan, budget requests and legislative agenda are aligned to address our priorities, which are to increase access and success for all postsecondary learners – high school, college and returning adults; to erase equity gaps; and to increase affordability,” said Regents Legislative Committee Chairman and Former Senate President Randy Ewing. “Regents commends the legislature for the work that has been done on behalf of higher education these last two years to stabilize funding for our institutions, fully fund the TOPS program and give a much-needed increase to the Go Grant program. The result of this commitment has been evident on our campuses across the state and we look forward to producing continued results.”

More information on Regents' legislative package can be found
at: <https://regents.la.gov/session2019/>

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