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**LOUISIANA ONE OF SIX STATES AWARDED GRANT TO
CREATE TEACHER COMPENSATION MODEL**

BATON ROUGE, La. - The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) has selected Louisiana as one of six states - including Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Rhode Island and Tennessee – to be awarded grants to create new models of teacher compensation that enhance teacher effectiveness.

Louisiana's Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence met today to begin developing the comprehensive teacher compensation system model and action plan to address the grant. The model will be presented to the Governor, Board of Regents, and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education during a joint meeting in May.

An abundance of research confirms that teachers are the most important factor in improving student learning. Recognizing this, governors and other state leaders are initiating efforts to support the recruitment, preparation and retention of effective teachers.

“It is critical that we attract the best and the brightest to the teaching profession in Louisiana and retain teachers who are having a positive impact upon student learning in our schools.” said Bobby Jindal, Governor of Louisiana. “This will be a unique opportunity for our state to continue to lead the nation in efforts to improve teacher quality.”

The grant from the National Governors Association will allow representatives of Louisiana's Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence to work with other states as participants in a Policy Academy that will assist them in developing new models of teacher compensation that recruits new talent to the profession, retains existing talent within the profession, provides incentives for teachers to work in shortage areas and hard-to-staff schools and pays teachers for their contributions to improved teaching and learning. The Policy Academy will pair influential state policymakers with leading national experts to help develop state-specific policy strategies.

“Studies performed in the education sector as well as other workforce areas repeatedly confirm that pay-for-contribution initiatives drive results,” said Dane Linn, director of the NGA Center's Education Division. “This Policy Academy will help states interested in new models of teacher compensation understand the intricacies, challenges and overall benefits of enacting such a policy.”

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The Policy Academy is made possible through generous support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Joyce Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

“This is an important example of how higher education and PK-12 education can work together to improve the effectiveness of teachers who in turn, improve student achievement in Louisiana’s classrooms,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Sally Clausen. “We have to guarantee that teachers who move student achievement beyond expected levels will be compensated accordingly.”

“We must have effective teachers if we are to build a world class education system in Louisiana,” said State Superintendent of Education Paul Pastorek. “Our work during this next year with the NGA Policy Academy will accelerate our efforts to attract, support, and retain teachers who can prepare our students to be competitive in a global economy.”

In 2007, the NGA Center released a report on teacher compensation titled “[*Improving Teaching Through Pay for Contribution*](#)”, which provided governors with different compensation policies as a way to improve teacher effectiveness. These and other teacher compensation strategies will be examined as part of the Policy Academy.

Representatives from the Blue Ribbon Commission and state personnel who have been selected by the Office of the Governor to participate in the policy academies include:

- Glenny Lee Buquet (Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Member)
- Jeanne M. Burns (Associate Commissioner for Teacher Education Initiatives – Office of the Governor and Board of Regents)
- Edwina “Wendy” Demers (2008-2009 Louisiana Middle School Teacher of the Year; Teacher at Edward Hynes Charter School, New Orleans, LA)
- Wayne Free (Director of Instructional Advocacy, Louisiana Association of Educators)
- Vickie Gentry (College of Education Dean, Northwestern State University)
- Stephanie “Jill” Portie (2008-2009 Louisiana Elementary Principal of the Year; Principal at LeBleu Settlement Elementary School, Kinder, LA)
- Sheila Talamo (Teacher Advancement Program, State Director, LA Department of Education)

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