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BOARD OF REGENTS

P. O. Box 3677

Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677

Phone (225) 342-4253, FAX (225) 342-9318

www.regents.state.la.us

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Contact: Meg Casper

meg.casper@la.gov

Regents Announce Governance Commission Membership

BATON ROUGE, La – The Board of Regents today announced the individuals who have agreed to serve on the commission to study the governance, management, and supervision of postsecondary education as outlined in House Concurrent Resolution 184 of the 2011 Legislative Session. The commission will begin its work with an initial meeting on August 19, 2011.

According to HCR 184, authored by Representatives Carmody and Schroder, the commission of 18 shall be comprised of the following:

- Four members appointed by the Board of Regents;
- One member appointed by each of the four public postsecondary education management boards;
- Five members appointed by the Governor;
- The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education;
- One member of the Senate Committee on Education, appointed by the chairman;
- The chairman of the House Committee on Education;
- One member of the House Committee on Education, appointed by the chairman; and
- The chairman of the Workforce Investment Council;

The appointments by the Board of Regents, which will be presented for ratification to its Executive Committee during a special meeting, Thursday, August 11th at 1:30 p.m. in the 6th floor Board Conference Room of the Claiborne Building, are:

- **ROBERT W. LEVY, of Ruston**- Mr. Levy is serving in his fourth, six-year term as District Attorney for the Third Judicial District (Lincoln and Union Parishes). He was appointed to the Board of Regents by Governor Foster in July, 2001 and presently serves as Chairman of the Board. In addition to the Board of Regents, Mr. Levy is a member of the Board and past president of the Louisiana District Attorney Association and immediate past chairman of its Juvenile Justice Task Force.
- **JACQUI VINES, of Baton Rouge**- Ms. Vines is Senior Vice President and General Manager for Cox Louisiana, a position she was promoted to in April 2009. She is the President of the La Capitale Chapter of Links, Inc. and a member of the boards of directors for Greater New Orleans (GNO), Inc. and Louisiana State University's Tiger Athletic Foundation (TAF). She also served as Vice Chair of Governor Bobby Jindal's Transition Advisory Panel for Economic Development and is a past member of the Boards of Directors of Blueprint Louisiana, the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

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PAGE 2-Governance Commission Membership

- **BARRY ERWIN, of Baton Rouge**- Mr. Erwin serves as President of the Council for a Better Louisiana (CABL). CABL is a statewide, nonprofit membership organization that works on issues that impact the quality of life in Louisiana. CABL is involved in numerous public policy issues at the state level, including education, workforce development, state fiscal policies and governmental ethics. Erwin worked on numerous public affairs projects prior to joining CABL on issues such as education, health care and the judiciary.
- **JAMES E. LYONS, SR., of New Orleans**- Dr. Lyons became the Interim President at Dillard University on July 1, 2011 and will serve in that capacity until Dillard's seventh president is appointed. As an esteemed educator and administrator, Dr. Lyons brings with him a wealth of leadership experience including service as secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, where he helped establish policies for Maryland's public and private colleges and universities. Additionally, he was the president of three universities: California State University, Dominguez Hills; Jackson State University; and Bowie State University.

The appointment by the Louisiana State University System is:

- **RAYMOND J. LASSEIGNE, of Bossier City**- Mr. Lasseigne is a petroleum engineer with over 39 years of varied oilfield experience. He has worked in reservoir, drilling, and production engineering, and in prospect generation, acquisitions, and management. Currently he is President and co-owner of both TMR Exploration, Inc., and Sandia Drilling, LLP in Bossier City, Louisiana. He recently served as Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee for Governor Jindal's transition team and continues working for the betterment of his state and community as a member on the Louisiana Oil Spill Interagency Council and as President of the Bossier Levee Board of Commissioners.

The appointment by the Southern University System is:

- **PATRICK W. BELL, of Baton Rouge**- Mr. Bell works with the Louisiana Department of Insurance as the Deputy Commissioner for Minority Affairs. As the deputy commissioner, he is responsible for working with minority groups in creating awareness and opportunities for minorities to participate in the insurance industry. Prior to joining the Department of Insurance, Patrick worked for Capital One as Director of Government Relations. In 2005, he was elected as a board member for the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus Foundation and was recently elected board president.

The appointment by the University of Louisiana System is:

- **MR. WINFRED SIBILLE, of Sunset**- Mr. Sibille is currently serving his second consecutive year as Chair of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System. Initially appointed to the Board of Supervisors in 1995 by Governor Edwin W. Edwards, he was reappointed in 2001 by Governor Murphy J. (Mike) Foster and in 2007 by Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco to serve consecutive six year terms on the Board. Winfred also serves as the Board of Supervisors appointed member to Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission. Before his retirement in 1986, Sibille worked as a teacher, principal, supervisor, assistant superintendent, and legislative consultant and lobbyist.

The appointment by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System is:

- **N. J. (WOODY) OGÉ, JR., of Avondale**- Mr. Ogé is the Director of Business Affairs for Ingalls Shipbuilding-Avondale Operations and is responsible for all functions at the shipyard in support of ship construction and all community, local, state and federal business relations. Ogé served as Chairman of Governor Jindal's Workforce Transition Committee and currently sits on the Department of Education's Tier 1 Committee on High School Redesign and their Business and Industry Roundtable as well as the Board of Directors of the Delgado Community College Foundation.

The appointments by Governor Bobby Jindal are:

- **CAMILLE CONAWAY, of Baton Rouge**- Ms. Conaway is a consultant for SSA and was formerly a policy advisor for the Office of the Governor.
- **GREG DAVIS, of Lafayette**-Mr. Davis is the Director of the Cajundome and is a member of the board for Council for a Better Louisiana and Finance Chairman for Louisiana's Next Horizon.
- **ANN DUPLESSIS, of New Orleans**- Ms. Duplessis is the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for the City of New Orleans and is a former Louisiana State Senator.
- **SEAN REILLY, of Baton Rouge**, - Mr. Reilly is the Chief Executive Officer of Lamar Advertising and is the Co-Chairman of Louisiana's Flagship Coalition.
- **PHILLIP ROZEMAN, of Shreveport**,- Mr. Rozeman is the President and founding physician of Cardiovascular Consultants.

Senate Education Chairman BEN NEVERS of Bogalusa and **House Education Chairman AUSTIN BADON of New Orleans** will both serve on the Commission and have appointed **Senator ERIC LAFLEUR of Ville Platte** and **Representative PATRICIA HAYNES SMITH of Baton Rouge** respectively. The Chairman of the Workforce Investment Council, **CHARLES H. MONIOTTE, of Baton Rouge** will also serve as a member.

“This is a robust group of leaders from across the state and the Board of Regents is very pleased with the commission’s composition,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell. “We plan to provide the commission with national, regional and state research as well as testimony from experts to assist them both in analyzing our governance structure and in forming the best recommendations to strengthen Louisiana’s higher education system. The work to be done is tremendously important for our students, our workforce and our state and we look forward to beginning that process later this month.”

The commission is scheduled to meet monthly. It is charged with submitting recommendations to the Legislature no later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the next session after deliberating on issues including, but not limited to governance, the performance funding formula, articulation and transfer and tuition costs.

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