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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 8, 2011

TO: University Chancellors/Presidents

FROM: Jim Purcell, Ed.D.   
Commissioner of Higher Education

SUBJECT: Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)  
Leadership Summit

All public and private university Chancellors/Presidents are invited to form a team of four key campus leaders to participate in a Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career Readiness (PARCC) Leadership Summit that will take place from 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM on Tuesday, August 30, 2011 at the Cook Conference Center on the LSU campus in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

We recommend that Chancellors/Presidents consider including the following as members of the leadership team since information discussed at the summit will impact their work during the next four years: Chancellor/President; Chief Academic Officer; College of Arts/Sciences/Humanities Dean; and College of Education Dean. Please identify the members of your team, have your assistant complete the attached form, and have your assistant return the form via e-mail by Friday, August 19, 2011. Please make the members of your team aware of the August 30<sup>th</sup> date so that they can schedule the summit on their calendars. A follow-up letter will also be sent to each member of the team.

The purpose of the summit will be for university Chancellors/Presidents and their teams to attain important information about their campus involvement in current and future decisions pertaining to the development and implementation of new mathematics and English assessments through PARCC. This partnership directly involves higher education and K-12 education in Louisiana plus 25 additional states and is being funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

Once successfully implemented, this work will impact four areas that are important to your campus and the GRAD Act:

- Increase the number of high school students entering entry-level, credit-bearing classes;
- Increase the number of post-secondary students completing their first year of college;
- Increase the retention rate of post-secondary students; and
- Increase the completion rate of post-secondary students.

It is important for Chancellors/Presidents and their teams to attend the summit and develop a clear understanding of PARCC for three important reasons:

- During the next four years, Chancellors/Presidents, chief academic officers, and campus faculty will have opportunities to provide direct input into the development of new high school assessments and the establishment of college and career ready cut scores for entry into entry-level, credit-bearing mathematics and English courses.
- The new assessments will replace existing high school achievement tests in Louisiana by 2014-2015 and the identified college and career ready cut-off scores will serve as an additional measure to determine if high school students are allowed to enter entry-level, credit-bearing courses in Louisiana and the partnering states.
- The new PARCC assessments will be aligned with the more rigorous common core standards which will require Colleges of Arts/Sciences/Humanities and Colleges of Education to reexamine their university curriculum for pre-service and in-service teachers. Failure of universities to adjust their curriculum to address the higher standards and higher expectations for the new assessments may result in new teachers not providing an appropriate curriculum to their students, students lacking the necessary knowledge to perform well on the new assessments, and universities receiving low scores on the Value-Added Teacher Preparation Assessment.

This is a time when it is very important for Chancellors/Presidents to hear consistent information from national PARCC leaders, collectively ask questions that are of importance to campus leaders, and become aware of an infrastructure that the state and PARCC will be creating to ensure that the voices of campus leaders and faculty are heard as the new assessments are developed and used during the next four years.

Please feel free to contact Dr. Jeanne Burns with the Louisiana Board of Regents at 225-342-4253 or [jeanne.burns@la.gov](mailto:jeanne.burns@la.gov) if you have any questions about the August 30, 2011 summit or the leadership teams.

We look forward to your involvement.

Enclosure

Cc: System Presidents  
System Chief Academic Officers  
College of Education Deans

**PARTNERSHIP FOR ASSESSMENT OF READINESS FOR COLLEGE AND  
CAREER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

**LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR CHANCELLOR/PRESIDENT**

<b>NAME OF UNIVERSITY</b>	
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**Directions:** Please provide the following information for the four individuals who will be members of the leadership team that will participate in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) Leadership Summit on August 30, 2011.

It is recommended that the Chancellor/President consider having the Chief Academic Officer, College of Arts/Sciences/Humanities Dean, and College of Education Dean serve as members of the team.

Please e-mail this form to Dr. Jeanne Burns at [jeanne.burns@la.gov](mailto:jeanne.burns@la.gov).

**1. Chancellor/President (or Designee)**

Name:	
Title:	
E-mail Address:	

**2. Leadership Team Member #2**

Name:	
Title:	
E-mail Address:	

**3. Leadership Team Member #3**

Name:	
Title:	
E-mail Address:	

**4. Leadership Team Member #4**

Name:	
Title:	
E-mail Address:	

**PLEASE SUBMIT TO DR. JEANNE BURNS ([jeanne.burns@la.gov](mailto:jeanne.burns@la.gov)) BY AUGUST 19, 2011**