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June 10, 2010

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

As the Commissioner of Higher Education in Louisiana, I would like to express strong support for the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career Consortium* and pledge to work collaboratively with our K-12 state counterparts and our higher education colleagues across the partnership states to develop high school assessments that can serve as an indicator of readiness for non-remedial, credit-bearing, college-level coursework in mathematics and English. We value the promise of the new Common Core State Standards to improve college readiness rates of direct matriculation high school students and the vision outlined for developing a common college-ready assessment.

We further recognize that the diverse missions of postsecondary systems and institutions in the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career Consortium* will determine the specific ways in which this new assessment will be used. We are, however, prepared to participate in the design, development, and standard setting process of the Partnership with the goal of using the new measure(s) as part of our course placement system once the Partnership has set the college readiness standards for the assessment(s).

In the 2008-09 school year, the University of Louisiana System, Louisiana State University System, Southern University System, and Louisiana Community and Technical College System included 27,894 direct matriculation students. Of these direct matriculation students, at least 2.79% required at least one postsecondary remedial course. We are committed to working with the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career Consortium* toward ensuring that students who score college-ready on its end of high school assessments can enter credit-bearing coursework without remediation at this institution.

We are prepared to participate with the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career Consortium* in the following next steps:

- A collaborative and comprehensive effort by K-12 and higher education faculty and leaders across the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career Consortium* on test design and development.
- A coordinated effort across the consortium to design and participate in validity studies and comparisons with current placement instruments to ensure that the assessments developed are an accurate measure of college readiness.
- A thorough, research-based process to establish common achievement standards on the new assessments that signal students' preparation for entry level, credit-bearing coursework.
- Use of the assessment in all partnership states' postsecondary institutions, along with any other placement requirement established by the IHE systems, as an indicator of students' readiness for placement in non-remedial, credit-bearing college-level coursework.

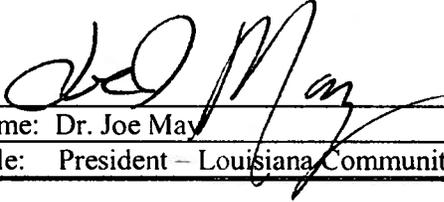
We strongly support further work to establish a better aligned P-20 education system that will help all of Louisiana's students graduate from high school ready for college and careers, by providing students, their parents and their teachers with clear and consistent information about what it means and what it takes to be ready for college. We further commit ourselves to work collaboratively with our K-12 counterparts to improve associated student outreach, intervention, and academic preparation programs to ensure all students have the opportunity to successfully transition into our postsecondary system.

Thank you for providing the students in our state with the opportunity to benefit from such an important collaboration.

Signature(s) for the State of: Louisiana	
Authorized State Signature:	
	
Name: Dr. Sally Clausen	Date: June 10, 2010
Title: Commissioner of Higher Education	

Signature(s) for the University System of: Louisiana Community and Technical College System

Authorized State Signature:



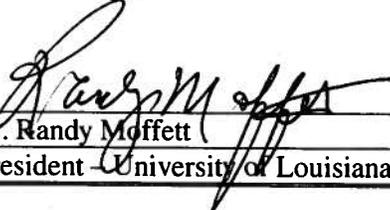
Name: Dr. Joe May

Date: June 10, 2010

Title: President - Louisiana Community and Technical College System

Signature(s) for the University System of: University of Louisiana System

Authorized State Signature:



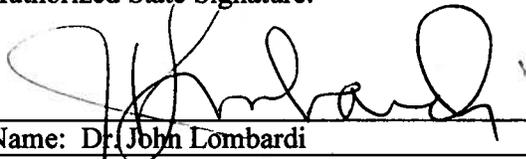
Name: Dr. Randy Moffett

Date: June 10, 2010

Title: President University of Louisiana System

Signature(s) for the University System of: Louisiana State University System

Authorized State Signature:



Name: Dr. John Lombardi

Date: June 10, 2010

Title: President – Louisiana State University System

Signature(s) for the University System of: Southern University System

Authorized State Signature:



Name: Dr. Kassie Freeman

Date: June 10, 2010

Title: Interim President – Southern University System