

Regents Recap

Highlights of the Activities and Official Actions of the Louisiana Board of Regents

February 28, 2005

Louisiana College Student Leaders Attend Presidential Inauguration

Louisiana was well represented at last month's presidential inauguration in Washington. Among other distinguished Louisiana attendees who braved the cold to witness the historical event were twenty members of the Louisiana Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP). The group took advantage of the opportunity to visit several members of Louisiana's congressional delegation as well. COSBP is a statewide organization of Louisiana public college and university Student Government Association and Student Bar Association presidents aimed at helping ensure that Louisiana's colleges and universities remain responsive to the needs of students and that student opportunity for academic and career success is optimized.

"It was an honor to represent Louisiana and our respective institutions in Washington, and to see first-hand the president and vice president of the United States sworn into office," said Kimberly Ludwig, Louisiana Tech SGA president and statewide COSBP chair. "We all felt very privileged and thankful to all the members of the Louisiana legislative delegation who made our trip possible." Ludwig also serves as the student board member on the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors.

On the day before the inauguration, the group enjoyed visits with Louisiana's two U.S. Senators, Mary Landrieu and David Vitter, and with Louisiana Congressmen Rodney Alexander, Richard Baker, Charles Boustany, Bobby Jindal, and Jim McCrery.

"The trip was a great civics and history lesson," said Katie Ortego, SGA President at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Washington," said University of New Orleans SGA President and Board of Regents student member Jeraul Mackey. "I felt as though we were part of history, eye witnesses to the swearing in of our 43rd president."

Members of the Louisiana Council of Student Body Presidents visit with Louisiana Congressman Charles Boustany during their recent trip to Washington to attend the presidential inauguration. First row (left to right): Heather Brundle - University of Louisiana at Monroe; Kim Ludwig - Louisiana Tech; Mindy McConnell - Northwestern State University; Angela Nealy - LTC-Winnfield; Dawn Muscarello - University of Louisiana System; Jackie Tisdell - University of Louisiana System. Second row (left to right): Tonya Chissell - Delgado Community College; Mallory Wall - McNeese State University; Martha Upshaw - University of Louisiana at Monroe; Kayla Cormier - Sowela Technical Community College; LaTroy Cato - University of Louisiana at Monroe; Katie Ortego - University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Jeraul Mackey - University of New Orleans; Michael Duff - McNeese State University; Congressman Charles Boustany; Michael Syper - Northwestern State University; Ben Anderson - Louisiana State University A&M; Martin Lemelle - Grambling State University; Edward Boudreaux - Nicholls State University; Trumaine Thomas - University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Lindsey Mencacci - Louisiana Tech; Harold Boutte - Board of Regents; Arthur Monroe, Jr. - Southern University A&M.



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Board Action - February 23-24, 2005

Program Approvals

The Board approved the following proposed new academic programs, letter of intent, progress reports and proposed academic centers/institutes:

New Academic Programs:

Sowela Technical Community College - A.S. in Nursing

Louisiana Technical College, Teche Area Campus - A.A.S. in Computer Network Technology

Louisiana Tech University - B.S. in Nanosystems Engineering

Letter of Intent:

Louisiana State University and A&M College - Ph.D. in Biostatistics

Progress Report on Conditionally-Approved Programs:

Fletcher Technical Community College - A.S. in Nursing; Associate of General Studies

Proposed Academic/Research Centers:

Full Approval - LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center - George and Jean Pugh Institute for Justice

Conditional Approval - LSU Ag Center - Center for Rural Initiatives

Program Notes:

Louisiana Tech's new undergraduate program in nanosystems engineering, which will train engineers in the science and applications of devices that can be as small as individual molecules, is the first such undergraduate program in the nation.

The George and Jean Pugh Institute for Justice at LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center will provide a stimulus for research efforts and for study of means to improve the administration of justice, providing faculty with opportunities to study theoretical means of improving Louisiana law.

Regents Approve RFP for Program to Aid Underperforming Schools

The Louisiana Board of Regents approved a Request For Proposals (RFP) that will now be sent to all Louisiana public and private colleges of education soliciting plans for partnering with and improving specific underperforming Louisiana elementary and secondary schools. Colleges submitting proposals will compete for a total of \$1 million over the next three years to partner with schools identified by the Department of Education as "Academically Unacceptable" through the state's School Accountability System.

The Regents' program, inspired in part by the University of New Orleans' recent takeover of the underperforming Pierre Capdau Middle School in New Orleans, will be funded through the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF). Proposals may range from providing a particular service (such as collaborative leadership in school planning) to undertaking a complete school takeover like the UNO-Pierre Capdau arrangement, and may specify partnerships with one school or several.

Regents Welcome First LONI Staffer

At its meeting on Wednesday, February 23, the Board of Regents Technology Committee introduced the first staff member hired to work with the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI). Lonnie Leger, who holds certification as a Cisco Certified Internetworking Expert (a highly-specialized certification critical to the responsibilities of the position), was hired effective February 21 as LONI's Senior Optical Network Engineer.

"We're delighted to welcome Lonnie on board as our first LONI employee," said Commissioner of Education Joseph Savoie. "It's critical for the project in this formative stage that we have a full-time employee with Lonnie's understanding of the technology involved overseeing its implementation."

LONI is a high-speed fiber-optic computing network that will link the main-frame computers at Louisiana research universities across the state, exponentially increasing these institutions' collaborative data-processing capability. This network will greatly enhance important collaborative research being conducted at our universities, and it will open the door for new research efforts not possible before.

For more information on these and other Board of Regents actions, please visit our website at www.regents.state.la.us