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**Eight Universities Strong**

Grambling State University

Louisiana Tech University

McNeese State University

Nicholls State University

Northwestern State University

Southeastern Louisiana University

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

University of Louisiana at Monroe

**Legislative Auditor Issues Clean Opinion**

The Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Office issued an unqualified (clean) opinion for the University of Louisiana System financial audit for Fiscal Year 2007-08. There were no findings re-

ported and all prior year findings have been resolved.

"This successful audit reflects the hard work of the finance staff at our office and our eight universities. The

University of Louisiana System has put measures into place to ensure we are fiscally responsible for the dollars invested in our work," said President Randy Moffett.

**NSU to Coordinate *Project Lead the Way, Inc.***

Northwestern State University will serve as the state coordinator for Project Lead The Way, Inc., which aims to create a solution to the shortage of engineers, biomedical professionals, technologists and other technical workers.

The university will help promote engineering and science to middle and high school students, host sum-

mer trainings for teachers, and potentially offer college credit for participating students.

The Department of Education has already signed up 16 school districts and pledged \$700,000 toward the project.

According to Project Lead the Way officials, this program in other states has

proven to attract more females and minorities into the engineering and science fields, improve grades, and increase college-going rates.

For more information about the not-for-profit organization, visit [www.pltw.org](http://www.pltw.org).

**Louisiana Tech's Secret to Access and Success**

Louisiana Tech University updated the Board of Supervisors Special Committee on Access and Success regarding its efforts to improve student enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. This is the third in a series of presentations by the eight UL System campuses.

According to Director of Enrollment Management Pamela Ford, the biggest contributing factor to Tech's increase in access and success is campus culture. "We have an unwritten rule that every employee goes an extra mile for students. That is evident in Tech's number two

ranking in the nationwide survey, Rate My Professors dot com."

One program directly linked to access and success is Tech's Freshman Enrichment Program (FrEP). FrEP provides additional support and community building for students transitioning into college with a five-week Math 101 course along with enrichment projects. The program also offers cohort mentoring and support.

FrEP has proven successful in increasing retention rates for freshmen and keeping them

on-track towards a four-year degree plan and students come out of the program with a "built-in support network to succeed," said Ford.

Tech also has campus housing that groups students by academic disciplines, called Living Learning Communities. The groups of students are assigned a student development coordinator who serves as a mentor, and holds frequent meetings with the groups to discuss class assignments and tests. Students participating in the program maintain higher GPA's than students not in the program.

## Board Member Recognition



Elsie Burkhalter Gregory Hamer, Sr. Jimmy D. Long, Sr.

- Board of Supervisors Chair Elsie Burkhalter will be named Southeastern's College of Education and Human Development's "Alumnus of the Year" during convocation in April.
- Gregory Hamer was recognized by Multi-Unit Franchisee Magazine as a "Mega 99 Star." Hamer was credited as one of the seven "movers and shakers," expanding their organizations in tough times.
- Jimmy D. Long, Sr. will be honored at the Friends of LPB's 19th Louisiana Legends Awards gala April 30 for his life-long dedication to education.

## Board Action

The Board of Supervisors for the UL System approved the following university requests:

### Academic and Student Affairs

- Nicholls: Letter of Intent for Master of Art degree program in English Studies in Literature and Composition.
- Northwestern: National affiliate agreement with Project Lead the Way, Inc.
- UL Lafayette: Eliminate the computer engineering option and the telecommunications option of the Bachelor of Science degree program in electrical engineering and consolidate these associated course offerings into one electrical engineering degree program curriculum.

### Athletic

- Northwestern: Establish a coach/staff financial incentive for student-athlete academic success.

### Audit

- UL System: Internal and external audits submitted for the period of January 13, 2009 through March 13, 2009.

### Facilities Planning

- LA Tech: Demolish three structures located in the Research Park.
- LA Tech: Enter into a lease agreement with Louisiana Tech Foundation, Inc. to install chair back seats in Joe Aillet Stadium and donation of improvements to the university.
- McNeese: Continue the process of formulating a lease and management agreement with the SWLA Alliance Foundation, Inc., Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, and the City of Lake Charles involving the development, construction, and operation of the Southwestern Louisiana Entrepreneurial and Economic Development Center (SEED).
- Nicholls: Form of a ground lease and agreement to lease

with an option to purchase with NSU Facilities Corporation, a 501(c)3, private, not-for-profit corporation to design and develop and Student Recreation Center (SRC).

- Nicholls: Name 401 Gouaux Hall the *American Association of Drilling Engineers Computer Simulation and Distance Learning Center*.

- Northwestern: Name a conference room in the ROTC Building the *Lt. Col. Leon Pennington Conference Room*.

- Northwestern: Name the Band Hall the *William E. Brent Band Hall*.

- UL Lafayette: Petition the State Interim Emergency Board to address repairs to Fletcher Hall.

- UL System: Amend the FY 09-10 Capital Outlay Budget Requests.

### Finance

- Grambling: Include a self-assessed transportation fee on

the upcoming SGA Spring ballot.

- LA Tech: Include a self-assessed health fee increase on the upcoming SGA Spring ballot (*conditional approval*).

- McNeese: Adopt a resolution authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds, an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000 for the renovation and expansion of the Athletic Field House.

- Nicholls: Establish the Henry Lafont and Kim Corales Lafont first Generation Endowed Undergraduate Scholarship.

### Personnel Committee

- Grambling: Appoint Dr. Matthew Uwakonye as Interim Dean of the College of Business effective January 1, 2009.
- SLU: Appoint Ms. Wendy Johns-Lauderdale as Vice President for University Advancement effective March 27, 2009.

## Moffett Tapped for Regional Position

University of Louisiana System President Randy Moffett was appointed by Governor Bobby Jindal to serve on the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works to advance education in 16 states.

SREB is governed by a Board made up of the governor of each state and four gubernatorial appointees.

UL System Board Chair Elsie Burkhalter said this appointment "speaks well of the respect Dr. Moffett holds in regional and national higher education circles."

Visit [www.sreb.org](http://www.sreb.org) for more information.

## Louisiana Tech Continued

This initiative has been successful with engineering students and four new Living Learning Communities are planned for the fall.

"I commend Tech on their successful approaches. Their programs help build a network of friends. Peer support along with mentors helps students persevere when faced with obstacles to success. There are many students who don't have that type of support system in place at home," said UL System President Randy Moffett.

To see the full Louisiana Tech presentation and learn more about the UL System's Access and Success Initiative, visit [www.ulsystem.edu](http://www.ulsystem.edu).