

Regents Recap

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

September 24, 2004

LONI Forum Launches Louisiana Research Technology Revolution

The future of university research and technological progress for Louisiana took center stage September 2-3 when Louisiana university researchers, executives of major technology-oriented corporations, and representatives from federal funding agencies gathered at the Pennington Conference Center in Baton Rouge for "The LONI Forum."

The Forum provided an opportunity for state and international experts in high-speed networking and grid computing to explore the many possibilities of the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI). LONI, a planned statewide fiber-optics network, will link researchers and university-based supercomputers at a speed thousands of times faster than currently possible and connect Louisiana to the National LambdaRail (NLR). Earlier this year the Louisiana Board of Regents became a member of NLR, a consortium of research universities and technology companies deploying a nationwide networking infrastructure to support research in science, engineering, health care, and education.

Governor Kathleen Blanco was on hand for the event, and took the opportunity to officially announce that Louisiana had committed \$40 million in support of LONI and Louisiana's National NLR affiliation.

Researchers from Louisiana Tech, LSU A&M, LSU Health Sciences Center, Southern University A&M, Tulane University, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and the University of New Orleans - all participants in the initial phase of LONI - made presentations at the forum. Presentations were also made by Grid-Computing experts from prestigious institutions such as the University of North Carolina's Renaissance Computing Institute, the NASA Goddard Space Flight Institute, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois, and the Poxnan Supercomputing and Networking Center in Poland.

"The forum provided an excellent opportunity for Louisiana's university researchers to connect both with major corporations whose businesses depends on the kind of research and modeling LONI and the NLR will facilitate, *and* with decision-makers from research funding agencies like the National Science Foundation, NASA and the U.S. Department of Energy," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "The event should serve as a springboard for a variety of research projects that will benefit our universities, our state and our nation."

The LONI Forum was sponsored by the Office of the Governor, the Board of Regents' NSF EPSCoR Program, and the Center for Computation and Technology at LSU.



Governor Kathleen Blanco announces Louisiana's \$40 million commitment to LONI and NLR at the LONI Forum in Baton Rouge.

Regents Complete Endowment Check Presentation Tour

The Board of Regents recently completed a statewide series of campus visits in August and September to present more than \$10 million in matching funds to public and private colleges and universities across the state. The funds will help create 16 new Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars and 100 new Endowed Professorships.

The state-funded portion of these new endowed chairs and professorships matches \$15.6 million in private donations, under the state/private funding ratio provided for in the 1986 constitutional amendment establishing the Louisiana Education Quality Support Fund (LEQSF).

Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie made the presentations, joined at each location by Board of Regents members and state legislators from the given regions. The Commissioner took advantage

(continued on page 3)



McNeese was the first stop on the 2004 Endowment Matching Funds Tour. Pictured left to right are McNeese State University President Robert Hebert; George Mead, dean of the College of Science; University of Louisiana System President Sally Clausen; Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie; and Carl Shetler, ULS Board of Supervisors.



Roland M. Toups
Chair

Frances T. Henry
Vice Chair

Pat A. Strong
Secretary

William "Billy" Blake
Scott O. Brame
Richard E. D'Aquin
Reggie Dupré
Stanley J. Jacobs
Robert W. Levy
William "Bill" Oliver
W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr.

Virgil Robinson, Jr.
William Clifford Smith
Artis Terrell, Jr.
Jeraul Mackey
Student Member

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Endowment Tour (continued from page 1)

“As always, these visits were an excellent opportunity for the Regents and Louisiana’s postsecondary education community to recognize our generous donors across the state and to celebrate the enormous success of the Louisiana Educational Quality Support Fund and the Endowed Chairs and Professorships Program,” said Commissioner Savoie.

Since 1986, the Board of Regents has been able to award some \$181 million in matching grants through the program, creating 230 endowed chairs, including 18 \$2 million chairs, and 1367 endowed professorships. When matched with private contributions, the value of those chairs and professorships is almost \$385 million.

Funding for the endowment matching funds program is generated through a permanent trust fund approved by voters in a 1986 constitutional amendment. The original \$540 million payment was part of a settlement between the state and federal governments over disputed off-shore oil and gas royalty funds. By 2004, the trust fund (sometimes called the “(8g) money”) had risen to approximately \$953 million. Twenty-five percent of the interest earned each year is reinvested in the trust fund. The Legislature appropriates half of the remaining interest to the Board of Regents for higher education and the other half to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for grades K-12.

The \$10.4 million in matching funds to be awarded in the Endowment Program over the next two months is funded through the Regents’ share of the interest earned by the LEQSF over the past year.

(continued on page 3)

Board Action - September 22-23, 2004

Board Receives Teacher Education Initiatives Update

The Board received a report from Dr. Jeanne Burns, Regents Associate Commissioner for Teacher Education Initiatives, on the state’s teacher education initiatives. Burns reported that the Blue Ribbon Commission is scheduled to meet six times during the 2004-2005 academic year, beginning October 13, 2004. On the agenda for Commission activities this year are expanding expectations for leadership in the state and identifying recommendations to help close achievement gaps between white and minority students.

Burns also reported that the Southern Region Educational Board (SREB) has highlighted Louisiana’s recent efforts toward improving school leadership in its new publication, “Progress Being Made in Getting a Quality Leader in Every School.”

Regents Receive Details on Incorporation of Capdau Charter School into UNO College of Education and Human Development

University of New Orleans Chancellor Dr. Tim Ryan, with Jim Meza, Dean of the UNO College of Education and Human Development, and Capdau Principal Shannon Verrett, provided the Board with a comprehensive presentation on the organization and administration of the Capdau Charter School within UNO’s College of Education and Human Development. The Board expressed its support for this venture and encouraged other universities to consider similar initiatives.

Regents To Collaborate With Pennington on Obesity Study

Dr. Kerry Davidson, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, reported to the Board that a formal announcement from the USDA designating the Pennington Biomedical Research Center (PBRC) as a USDA-sanctioned Nutritional Research Center is expected very soon. Davidson said that one project to be funded under this relationship will include LA GEAR UP as a partner and will focus on the problem of obesity in rural schools in Louisiana. The project, entitled “LA Health: Primary and Secondary Obesity Prevention,” is headed by PBRC researcher Dr. Donald Williamson, who provided details on the project for the Board.

According to Williamson, because obesity disproportionately affects minority and low-income populations, the three-year study will gauge the effectiveness of specific school-based approaches to obesity prevention on low-income children and young adolescents in twelve rural schools in Louisiana that are also participating in the Board of Regents LA GEAR UP program.

Program Approvals

The Board approved the following proposed new academic programs, proposed letters of intent, and progress reports:

Proposed New Academic Programs

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - New Orleans - M.S. in Neuroscience

University of New Orleans - M.S. in Financial Economics

Bossier Parish Community College - A.A. in Music

Louisiana State University-Alexandria - Bachelor of Liberal Studies - Majors in English, History, Mathematics, Speech, and Theatre.

(continued on page 3)

Regents Receive Ethics Update

Kathleen Allen, Deputy General Counsel of the Louisiana Board of Ethics, presented to the Regents an overview of the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics and its various provisions, as well as information on the composition and duties of the Board of Ethics. Prior to Allen's presentation, Connie Koury, General Counsel for the Board of Regents, told the Board that, due to changes to the ethics code recommended by the Governor and enacted by the Legislature during the last legislative session, a briefing on the changes was appropriate.

Preliminary Capital Outlay Budget Approved

The Board of Regents approved the preliminary Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Capital Outlay Budget. Rich Griswold, Associate Commissioner for Facilities, told the Board that the recommendation is consistent with the Division of Administration's plan to resolve the backlog of projects before committing to additional work, adding that staff had received requests for 188 projects totaling over \$2.1 billion, and was recommending 101 projects, including 26 projects in the self-generated category, that totaled \$1.3 billion. The final Capital Outlay Budget will be considered at the October Board of Regents meeting.

Program Approvals (continued from page 2)

Proposed Letters of Intent

Louisiana State University A&M College, University of New Orleans, Southern University-Baton Rouge - Cooperative Ph.D. in Material Science and Engineering

University of New Orleans - B.S. in Transportation

Progress Reports on Conditionally Approved Programs

Southeastern Louisiana University - M.A. in Organizational Communications

Louisiana State University-Shreveport - M.S. in Health Care Administration

South Louisiana Community College - A.A.S. in Emergency Health Science; A.S. in Industrial Technology; A.S. in Criminal Justice

Nicholls State University - M.A.T. in Community/Technical College Mathematics

Progress Report on Conditionally Approved Center

Louisiana State University and A&M College - Life Course and Aging Center

Progress Reports on Approved Centers/Institutes

Louisiana State University and A&M College - Center for Gas Turbine Innovation and Energy Research; Institute for Ecological Infrastructure Engineering; and Center for Geoinformatics

University of New Orleans - Pontchartrain Institute

Endowment Tour (continued from page 2)

of the tour to meet with local media in many of the locations to discuss the postsecondary education progress in Louisiana.

Receiving matching grants for endowed chairs and professorships [unless indicated otherwise, endowed chairs total \$1 million and endowed professorships total \$100,000]:

- Centenary College – 1 professorship.
- Dillard University - 1- \$1 million chair; 4 professorships
- Grambling State University - 1 professorship
- LSU Agricultural Center – 3 professorships
- LSU-Alexandria – 1 professorships
- Louisiana Delta Community College (Monroe) - 3 professorships
- Louisiana State University and A&M College — 3 - \$1 million chairs, 6 professorships
- LSU Health Sciences Center- New Orleans – 3 - \$1million chairs, 6 professorships
- LSU Health Sciences Center- Shreveport – 2 - \$1 million chairs
- LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center - 1 - \$1 million chair
- LSU Pennington Biomedical Research Center - 3 - \$1million chairs
- LSU-Shreveport — 3 professorships
- Louisiana Tech University – 7 professorships
- Loyola University — 6 professorships;
- McNeese State University - 4 professorships
- Nicholls State University — 6 professorships;
- Northwestern State University – 1 professorship
- Our Lady of Holy Cross College — 2 professorships
- Our Lady of the Lake College — 6 professorships
- Saint Joseph Seminary College - 2 professorships
- Southeastern Louisiana University – 2 professorship
- Southern University A&M - 1 professorship
- Southern University Law Center – 3 professorships
- Tulane University — 6 professorships
- Tulane Health Sciences Center – 3 - \$1 million chairs; 7 professorships;
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette – 7 professorships
- University of Louisiana at Monroe — 4 professorships
- University of New Orleans — 1 professorship
- Xavier University — 7 professorships.

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