



*2007-2008*  
*BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION*  
*FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE*  
*RECOMMENDATIONS*  
  
*YEAR NINE REPORT*

*Submitted to the*  
*Governor,*  
*Board of Regents, and*  
*Board of Elementary & Secondary Education*

**October 14, 2008**

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**2007-2008**  
**BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**  
**YEAR EIGHT REPORT**

**A. STRUCTURE OF THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION**

The Blue Ribbon Commission was originally created by the Board of Regents (BoR) and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) during April 1999 to develop recommendations to improve the quality of teachers and educational leaders. It is supported by the Governor and is housed within the Governor's Office of Education. During 2007-08, the Commission was composed of 36 members who represented each of the following areas.

**Nine Designated Members**

- Two members of the Board of Regents
- Two members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Chairperson of the Senate Education Committee or designee
- Chairperson of the House Education Committee or designee
- Commissioner of Higher Education or designee
- Governor's Designee
- State Superintendent of Education or designee

**Ten Members Selected by the Board of Regents**

- One University/College President/Chancellor
- One University Provost
- One Dean of a College of Education (public institution)
- One Dean of a College of Education (private institution)
- One Dean of College of Arts and Science
- One College of Education Faculty Member
- One College of Arts/Science Faculty Member
- One Community and Technical College Representative
- One PK-16+ Coordinator
- One Teacher Preparation Candidate
- One University Content Expert in Special Education

**Ten Members Selected by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**

- One District Superintendent (Urban)
- One District Superintendent (Rural)
- One District Director of Personnel
- One Elementary Principal
- One Middle School Principal
- One High School Principal
- One Elementary School Teacher
- One Middle School Teacher
- One High School Teacher
- One School Board Member
- One District Content Expert in Special Education

## **Five Members Jointly Selected by the Board of Regents and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education:**

- Two Community Representatives
- One Parent
- One Grant Generator
- One NAACP Member

The Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence was co-chaired during 2007-08 by Glenny Lee Buquet (Board of Elementary and Secondary Education) and Mary Ellen Roy (Board of Regents). See Appendix A for a listing of Blue Ribbon Commission members.

## **B. CHARGE AND TOPICS FOR THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION**

The Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence met on five occasions during fall 2007 and spring 2008 (October 11, 2007; November 15, 2007; January 31, 2008; April 10, 2008; and May 8, 2008).

The Commission was given the following charge for 2007-08:

*To develop recommendations to create deeper PK-16+ collaborative partnerships between universities and districts that directly address rigor, relevance, and relationships.*

The topics discussed during 2007-08 pertained to the following areas:

- *Developing Collaborative University/District Partnerships (October 11, 2007 Nationally Recognized Speaker: Dr. Kathy O'Neill - Southern Regional Education Board);*
- *Building Collaborative University/District Partnerships to Support the Value-Added Teacher Preparation Assessment Model (November 15, 2007 Nationally Recognized Speaker: Dr. George Noell – Louisiana State University and A&M College)*
- *Building Collaborative University/District Partnerships to Support Learning Centered Educational Leaders (April 10, 2008 Nationally Recognized Speakers: Dr. Agnes Smith – University of South Alabama; Patti Hughes – Mobile County Public Schools)*
- *Determining Priorities, Roles, and Responsibilities of a PK-16+ Commission/Council (May 8, 2008 Nationally Recognized Speakers: Dr. Diane Bazell, Kentucky Council on Post-Secondary Education; Dr. Nancy Shapiro – University System of Maryland)*

On May 8, 2008, the Blue Ribbon Commission members completed draft recommendations for the *2007-08 Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence Report*. The draft recommendations were further developed electronically by members during summer 2008 and finalized during August 2008.

## C. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE (2007-08)

The following are recommendations that were made by the Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence during 2007-08 to address the charge to create deeper PK-16+ collaborative partnerships between universities and districts that directly address rigor, relevance, and relationships.

### 1. PK-20+ Collaboration

Change the wording from PK-16+ to PK-20+ when discussing collaboration between K-12 education and post-secondary education in Louisiana.

### 2. PK-20+ Priorities for Education

Have the Governor, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education/Louisiana Department of Education, Board of Regents, universities/colleges, business/industries, and constituent groups adopt a common set of PK-20+ priorities and work collaboratively to address the priorities to improve PK-20+ education in Louisiana.

*Priorities:*

- Literacy & Numeracy*
- High School Redesign*
- Improving Failing Schools*
- Workforce Development*
- Teacher Quality and Educational Leadership*

### 3. PK-20+ State Commissions/Councils

Maintain the existing structures for commissions and councils in Louisiana and assign each one of the commissions/councils a PK-20+ State Priority to address.

- Priority in 2008-09: Numeracy and Literacy (*DOE Numeracy/Literacy Team*)
- Priority in 2008-09: High School Redesign (*High School Redesign Commission*)
- Priority in 2008-09: Improving Failing Schools (*K-12 School and District Accountability Commission*)
- Priority in 2008-09: Workforce Development (*Workforce Development Commission*)
- Priority in 2008-09: Teacher Quality and Educational Leadership (*Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence*)

### 4. PK-20+ Staff Coordinating Committee

- a. Have staff who are responsible for the existing commissions/councils meet to align the varying initiatives that have been recommended by the individual commissions/councils.

- b. Have the committee develop an alignment plan across agencies to identify how the commissions/councils are developing recommendations that address the PK-20+ State Priorities.
- c. Have the Governor, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, Board of Regents, and key business partners review the alignment plan for accuracy.
- d. Once alignment is confirmed by the Governor, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, Board of Regents, and key business partners, have the staff present the alignment plan to their respective commissions/councils and use the documentation to guide the development of new recommendations by their commissions/councils that may impact areas being addressed by other commissions/councils.

**5. Communication**

- a. Have the Governor, Board of Regents, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, Louisiana Department of Education, universities/colleges, businesses/industries, and constituent groups communicate a united message pertaining to the PK-20+ State Priorities.
- b. Identify a consistent web site that the public can use to attain information about the individual commissions/councils and the needs they are addressing. The web site could contain the following types of information.
  - 1) Purpose of commissions/councils
  - 2) Dates of meetings
  - 3) Agenda for commission/council meetings
  - 4) Minutes of commission/council meetings
  - 5) Members serving on commission/council
  - 6) Documents developed by the commission/council
- c. Provide members of the commissions/councils with opportunities to identify major topics or critical areas of need to be addressed by the commissions/councils.

**6. PK-20+ Local Councils/Partnerships**

- a. Provide districts and universities with the flexibility to create PK-20+ university/district councils/partnerships that address specific local needs instead of the state developing a formal PK-20+ structure for all universities and districts in the state.

- b. Have the state implement strategies to provide the appropriate types of conditions for the university/district partnerships to be successful.

Examples of conditions include the following:

- Access to the Wilder Collaboration Factor Inventory for individual PK-16+ district/university partnerships to identify needs of their partnerships.
  - Provision of trained personnel to help local PK-20+ councils/partnerships use the SREB Module on University/District Collaboration.
  - Identification of effective PK-20+ local and regional partnerships in the state and dissemination of information on a central web site pertaining to the partnerships.
- c. Conduct a yearly PK-20+ institute that highlights best practices in the state and nationally for PK-20+ collaboration and team building.
- d. Map PK-20+ collaborative partnerships across the state and assist in developing strategies to link efforts in regions with multiple university programs or to link rural districts to university partners if districts have no university partners.
- e. Have the Governor, Board of Regents, and/or Board of Elementary and Secondary Education create incentives to recognize highly effective PK-20+ university/district partnerships that improve student achievement.
- f. Reward universities through performance funding for effective PK-20+ university/district partnerships that improve student achievement.

**APPENDIX A**  
**BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**  
**MEMBERS**  
**2007/2008**

<b>CHAIRPERSONS</b>		
Co-Chairperson	Glenny Lee Buquet Board of Elementary and Secondary Education	1309 Bayou Black Drive; Houma, LA 70360; (TEL) 985-876-5216; (FAX) 985-868-7919; E-mail: <a href="mailto:glennyleeb@comcast.net">glennyleeb@comcast.net</a>
Co-Chairperson	Mary Ellen Roy Board of Regents	365 Canal Place #2000, New Orleans, LA 70130; (TEL) 504-566-1311; (FAX) 504-568-9130; E-mail: <a href="mailto:roym@phelps.com">roym@phelps.com</a>
<b>DESIGNATED MEMBERS</b>		
Board of Regents	Robert W. Levy Board of Regents	P. O. Box 777, Ruston, LA 71273; (TEL) 318-513-6356; (FAX) 318-251-5103; E-mail: <a href="mailto:blevy@lincolnparrish.org">blevy@lincolnparrish.org</a>
Board of Elementary and Secondary Education	To Be Determined	
Governor's Designee	Erin Bendily Education Policy Advisor	Governor's Office; P. O. Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804; (TEL) 225-219-4825; (FAX) 225-342-7099; E-mail: <a href="mailto:erin.bendily@la.gov">erin.bendily@la.gov</a>
President of the Senate Designee	Senator Ben W. Nevers State Senate	724 Avenue F, Bogalusa, LA 70427; (TEL) 985-732-6863 or 225-342-6090 (Capitol); E-mail: <a href="mailto:websen@legis.state.la.us">websen@legis.state.la.us</a>
Chairperson, House Education Committee	Representative Donald Trahan State Representative	5905 Johnston Street, Suite F, Lafayette, LA 70503; (TEL) 337-984-0175; (FAX) 337-984-9077; E-mail: <a href="mailto:neversb@legis.state.la.us">neversb@legis.state.la.us</a>
Commissioner of Higher Education	E. Joseph Savoie Board of Regents	P. O. Box 3677, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677; (TEL) 225-342-4253; (FAX) 225-342-9318; E-mail: <a href="mailto:commish@regents.state.la.us">commish@regents.state.la.us</a>
State Superintendent of Education	Paul Pastorek Louisiana Department of Education	P. O. Box 96064, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064; (TEL) 225-342-3607; (FAX) 225-342-7316; E-mail: <a href="mailto:paul.pastorek@la.gov">paul.pastorek@la.gov</a> <a href="mailto:vicky.thomas@la.gov">vicky.thomas@la.gov</a>
Louisiana Community & Technical College System	Jerry Pinsel Interim Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs	265 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806; (TEL) 225-922-0844; (FAX) 225-922-1485; E-mail: <a href="mailto:jpinsel@lctcs.state.la.us">jpinsel@lctcs.state.la.us</a>



**BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**  
**MEMBERS (CONT'D.)**  
**2007/2008**

<b>MEMBERS SELECTED BY BOARD OF REGENTS</b>		
University President	Sally Clausen President University of Louisiana System	1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-300 Baton Rouge, LA 70802; (TEL) 225-342-6950; (FAX) 225-342-6473; E-mail: <a href="mailto:sclausen@uls.state.la.us">sclausen@uls.state.la.us</a>
University Provost	John Crain University Provost Southeastern Louisiana University	SLU Box 10798, Hammond, LA 70402; (TEL) 985-549-2316; E-mail: <a href="mailto:jcrain@selu.edu">jcrain@selu.edu</a>
University Deans	Jayne Fleener College of Education Dean Louisiana State University and A & M College  Carmen Riedlinger Chair, Graduate Education Programs Our Lady of Holy Cross College  Jeffrey Cass Dean, College of Arts and Sciences University of Louisiana at Monroe	221 Peabody Hall Baton Rouge, LA 70803 (TEL) 225-578-1258; (FAX) 225-578-2267; E-mail: <a href="mailto:fleener@lsu.edu">fleener@lsu.edu</a>  4123 Woodland Drive, New Orleans, LA 70131 (TEL) 504-398-2122; (FAX) 504-391-2421; E-mail: <a href="mailto:cRiedlinger@olhcc.edu">cRiedlinger@olhcc.edu</a>  700 University Avenue, Admin. 1-49, Monroe, LA 71209; (TEL) 318-342-1754; (FAX) 318-342-1755; E-mail: <a href="mailto:jcass@ulm.edu">jcass@ulm.edu</a>
University Faculty Members	Victor Schneider College of Arts/Sciences University of Louisiana at Lafayette  Connie Melder Director of Field Experiences & Clinical Practice Northwestern State University	Department of Mathematics; P. O. Box 41010; Lafayette, LA 70504; (TEL) 337-482-5295; (FAX) 337-482-5346; E-mail: <a href="mailto:vps3252@louisiana.edu">vps3252@louisiana.edu</a>  Director of Field Experiences; College of Education, Teacher Education Center, Office 115-B TEC building, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71597; (TEL) 318-357-6278; (FAX) 318-357-4170; E-mail: <a href="mailto:melderc@nsula.edu">melderc@nsula.edu</a> .
PK-16+ Coordinator	Sue Cathey PK-16+ Coordinator Louisiana State University at Alexandria	Department of Education, 8100 Highway 71 South, Alexandria, LA 71302-9121; (TEL) 318-473-6511; (FAX) 318-473-6479, E-mail: <a href="mailto:scathey@lsua.edu">scathey@lsua.edu</a>
Pre-service Teacher	Waltita Monique Chambers Elementary Education Major Southern University and A&M College	5131 Madison Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806; (TEL) 225-636-1005; E-mail: <a href="mailto:zip5zac3@yahoo.com">zip5zac3@yahoo.com</a>
Topic Specialist – Higher Education	William Sharpton Associate Dean University of New Orleans	College of Education & Human Development ED 304; New Orleans, LA 70148 (TEL) 504-280-1397; (FAX) 504-280-1400 E-mail: <a href="mailto:wsharpto@uno.edu">wsharpto@uno.edu</a>

**BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE  
MEMBERS (CONT'D.)  
2007/2008**

<b>MEMBERS SELECTED BY BOARD OF ELEMENTARY &amp; SECONDARY EDUCATION</b>		
District Superintendent – Urban	Charlotte Placide East Baton Rouge Parish School System	1050 S. Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806; (TEL) 225-922-5618; (FAX) 225-922-5499; Email: <a href="mailto:cplacide@ebrschools.org">cplacide@ebrschools.org</a>
District Superintendent – Rural	Walter Lee DeSoto Parish Board of Elementary and Secondary Education	201 Crosby St. Mansfield, LA 71052; (TEL) 318-872-3993; (FAX) 318-872-1324; E-mail: <a href="mailto:wlee@desotopsb.com">wlee@desotopsb.com</a>
Elementary Principal of the Year	Pamela Landry Principal Johnston Street Elementary	400 Johnston Street, New Iberia, LA 70560; (TEL) 337-369-3560; (FAX) 337-369-9301; E-mail: <a href="mailto:palandry@iberia.k12.la.us">palandry@iberia.k12.la.us</a>
Middle School Principal of the Year	Sherry Brock East Baton Rouge Parish	7180 Annabelle Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806; Westdale Middle School, 5650 Claycut Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70806; (TEL) 225-924-1308; (FAX) 225-926-9929 Email: <a href="mailto:sbrock@ebrschools.org">sbrock@ebrschools.org</a>
High School Principal of the Year	Jane Griffin Winnfield Senior High	P. O. Box 968, Winnfield, LA 71483; (TEL) 318-628-3506; (FAX) 318-628-3417; E-mail: <a href="mailto:jgriffin@winpsb.org">jgriffin@winpsb.org</a>
Elementary School Teacher of the Year	Monica Oi Yee Ratcliff Monroe City Schools	113 Hendon Circle, Monroe, LA 71203; (TEL) 318-342-8003; Email: <a href="mailto:oyratcliff@yahoo.com">oyratcliff@yahoo.com</a>
Middle School Teacher of the Year	Brenda Lofton Lincoln Parish	5785 Highway 33, Choudrant, LA 71227; (TEL) 318-255-5467 or 318-777-3479; (FAX) 318-777-8409; Email: <a href="mailto:blofton@lincolnschools.org">blofton@lincolnschools.org</a>
High School Teacher of the Year	Bobbie Keller Ascension Parish	3425 North Angelle St., Pauline, LA 70763; (TEL) 225-869-4790; 225-715-2178 (C) Dutchtown High School, 13165 Highway 73, Geismar, LA 70734; (TEL) 225-621-8250 Email: <a href="mailto:bobbie@apsb.org">bobbie@apsb.org</a>
Personnel Director	Ann Sandridge Personnel Coordinator Concordia Parish Louisiana State Association of School Personnel Administrators	P. O. Box 950, Vidalia, LA 71373; (TEL) (318) 336-4226, Ext. 116; (FAX); (318-336-5875) ; Email: <a href="mailto:asandidge@cpsbla.us">asandidge@cpsbla.us</a>
School Board Member	Atley Walker West Baton Rouge Parish School Board Member	3751 Lukeville Lane, Brusly, LA 70719; (TEL) 225-771-4678 or 225-749-3036; (FAX) 225-771-3338; E-mail: <a href="mailto:atley_walker@exs.subr.edu">atley_walker@exs.subr.edu</a>
Topic Specialist – K-12 Education	Julia Carnes Director of Special Education Livingston Parish	P. O. Box 1130, Livingston, LA 70754; (TEL) (225) 272-7809 ; (FAX) 225-686-4335; E-mail: <a href="mailto:jscarnes@bellsouth.net">jscarnes@bellsouth.net</a>

**BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE  
MEMBERS (CONT'D.)  
2007/2008**

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES SELECTED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS & BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION		
Community Representatives	<p>Brigitte Nieland Vice President Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI)</p>	<p>P. O. Box 80258, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-0258; (TEL) 225-928-5388; (FAX) 225-929-6054; E-mail: <a href="mailto:brigitten@labi.org">brigitten@labi.org</a></p>
	<p>James C. (Jim) Brandt President Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, Inc.</p>	<p>P. O. Box 14776; Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4776; (TEL) 225-926-8414 Ext. 21; (FAX) 225-926-8417; E-mail: <a href="mailto:jimbrandt@la-par.org">jimbrandt@la-par.org</a></p>
	<p>Chris Cohea LA PTA President</p>	<p>41090 Cuthell Drive, Hammond, LA 70403; (TEL) 985-215-1409; (FAX) 985-467-0094; E-mail: <a href="mailto:chriscoheapta@aol.com">chriscoheapta@aol.com</a></p>
	<p>Kerry Davidson Grant Generator LaSIP/LA GEAR UP</p>	<p>1201 North Third Street, Suite 6-200; Baton Rouge, LA 70802; (TEL) 225-342-4253; (FAX) 225-342-3371; E-mail: <a href="mailto:Davidson@laregents.org">Davidson@laregents.org</a></p>
	<p>Beverly Trahan National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Louisiana State Conference Education Committee</p>	<p>External Affairs Manager; Entergy Louisiana; P. O. Box 2431, Baton Rouge, LA 70821; (TEL) 225-381-5764; (FAX) 225-381-5813; E-mail: <a href="mailto:BTRAHA1@entergy.com">BTRAHA1@entergy.com</a></p>

**BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE  
STAFF  
2007/2008**

<i>AGENCIES</i>	<i>NAMES</i>	<i>ADDRESSES &amp; TELEPHONE NUMBERS</i>
Board of Regents	Jeanne M. Burns Associate Commissioner for Teacher Education Initiatives	Board of Regents/Governor's Office of Education, P. O. Box 94004; Baton Rouge, LA 70804; (TEL) 225-342-0162; (FAX) 225-342-5326; E-mail: <a href="mailto:jeanne.burns@la.gov">jeanne.burns@la.gov</a>
Louisiana Department of Education	Sheila Talamo Assistant Superintendent, Office of Quality Educators	Louisiana Department of Education, P. O. Box 94064, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064; (TEL) 225-342-3750; (FAX) 225-342-1055; E-mail: <a href="mailto:Sheila.talamo@la.gov">Sheila.talamo@la.gov</a>
Louisiana Department of Education	Ollie Tyler Deputy Superintendent of Education	Louisiana Department of Education, P. O. Box 94064, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064; (TEL) 225-342-3625; (FAX) 225-342-3283; E-mail: <a href="mailto:ollie.tyler@la.gov">ollie.tyler@la.gov</a>
Board of Elementary and Secondary Education	Weegie Peabody Executive Director of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education	P. O. Box 94064, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064; (TEL) 225-342-5840; (FAX) 225-342-5843; E-mail: <a href="mailto:weegie.peabody@la.gov">weegie.peabody@la.gov</a>
Office of the Governor	Linda Marino Administrative Assistant	Governor's Office of Education; P. O. Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804; (TEL) 225-342-0162; (FAX) 225-342-5326; E-mail: <a href="mailto:Linda.marino@la.gov">Linda.marino@la.gov</a>