



**Resolution No. #1**

**Sponsored by: Benjamin Rice, Student Body President, Louisiana Tech University  
Council of Student Body Presidents**

**A Resolution**

*A Resolution to address the budgetary issues regarding higher education*

**WHEREAS;** The Student Government Presidents of the state of Louisiana represent the more than 215,000 students in our colleges and universities;

**WHEREAS;** Over the last ten years, state funding for Louisiana's colleges and universities has been cut more than any other state in the nation. As a result, university and college budgets are now primarily funded by student tuition rather than by state dollars;

**WHEREAS;** The proposed cuts, if left unresolved, will undoubtedly hamper the success that Louisiana higher education has seen in the previous fiscal year, where higher education funding was kept stable for the first time in nine years;

**WHEREAS;** Reducing TOPS and Go Grants by any amount means many Louisiana students, who are already feeling the increased burden of budget cuts, will be forced to carry even more of the load that used to be covered by the state;

**WHEREAS;** The almost 50,000 students who benefit from TOPS will have to find alternate funding sources, and the disheartening reality is that too many of them will be forced to abandon their dreams of a college education, or, potentially, leave the state;

**WHEREAS;** The universities and colleges of Louisiana undeniably drive the Louisiana economy by contributing an estimated \$10 billion in economic impact annually to Louisiana;

**WHEREAS;** Long-term sustainability is paramount to instilling confidence in our students that will result in more students staying in Louisiana for their futures;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED;** that the Council of Student Body Presidents urges the Louisiana legislature to resolve the budget shortfall this February in order to give high school students, current students, and universities adequate time to plan for the upcoming year;



**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** that the Council of Student Body Presidents urges the legislature to not renege on the TOPS promise, fully fund Go Grants, and abstain from any further reduction to the budget for higher education;

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** that the Louisiana legislature owes it to the constituents that they represent to move past the era of disinvestment, and to initiate the era of reinvestment in higher education with a focus on long-term sustainability.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to members of the Louisiana Legislature and the Governor.

### **The Council of Student Body Presidents**

Arthur Williams, Chair

*Jason Badeaux, Louisiana State University and A&M College, Anthony Felps, Louisiana State University at Alexandria, Lauren Johnson, Louisiana State University at Eunice, Jonah Harrington, Louisiana State University at Shreveport, Laura Erwin, Louisiana State University Health Science Center at New Orleans, Kaitlin Wagner, Louisiana State University Health Science Center at Shreveport | Armond Duncan, Southern University and A&M College, Erica Jefferson, Southern University at New Orleans, D'Marquis Dupree, Southern University at Shreveport, Arthur Williams, Southern University Law Center | Adarian Williams, Grambling State University, Benjamin Rice, Louisiana Tech University, Ryan Robledo, McNeese State University, Tommy Thibodeaux, Nicholls State University, Otha "Tre" Nelson, III, Northwestern State University, Seth Leto, Southeastern Louisiana University, Bryce Bordelon, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Mary McMahan, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Nigel Watkins, University of New Orleans | Donald Fountain, Baton Rouge Community College, Kimberly Clemmons, Bossier Parish Community College, Gerri Anderson, Central Louisiana Technical Community College, Stephanie Pham, Delgado Community College, Sommer Brown, Fletcher Technical Community College, Zachary Hitt, Louisiana Delta Community College, Paul Foster, Northshore Technical Community College, Asia London, Northwest Technical Community College, Mariella DiCristina, Nunez Community College, Tytaya Guzman, River Parishes Community College, Darell Richardson, South Central Louisiana Technical College, Elroy Manuel, Jr., South Louisiana Community College, Brooklin Alexander, SOWELA Technical Community College*