

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 69

BY SENATORS CHEEK, ADLEY, JACKSON AND SHAW AND REPRESENTATIVES
BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, DOERGE,
GALLOT, MORRIS, NORTON, JANE SMITH, WADDELL AND
WILLIAMS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents to approve the expanded role, scope and mission to include selected doctoral degrees at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, as approved by the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College for the Board of Regents Master Plan, 2008.

WHEREAS, Louisiana State University in Shreveport (LSUS) is an essential educational and economic development resource for the Shreveport-Bossier metropolitan area and the Ark-La-Tex region; and

WHEREAS, the 2003 Strategic Analysis of Northwest Louisiana found that, "the Shreveport-Bossier metro area is one of the most underserved of all metro areas in Louisiana in offerings of undergraduate and graduate programs," and that, "this limits higher education opportunities for the citizens in this region, and can have a negative economic development effect"; and

WHEREAS, LSUS is known for developing strategic academic alliances with other institutions such as Southern University in Shreveport, Bossier Parish Community College, the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport (LSUHSCS) and Louisiana Tech that address the workforce needs of the region and state; and

WHEREAS, to complement the broad array of undergraduate programs at LSUS and to further advance the state and nation's ever-changing workforce and professional needs, the university offers master's degree programs that blend traditional academic disciplines which facilitate inquiry and discovery in today's interconnected world; and

WHEREAS, the administration and faculty of LSUS work closely with multi-parish groups and business and industry in providing insights and analysis from significant university assets such as the Center for Business and Economic Research; Red River Public Radio; the LSUS Red River Watershed Management Institute; the two hundred thousand-volume Noel Collection, a world-class resource for scholars; and the professional development schools, which offer educational outreach in partnership with area schools; and

WHEREAS, LSUS also has a close working relationship with the city of Shreveport in meeting the comprehensive educational and research requirements at Barksdale Air Force Base as part of the United States Defense Department's increasingly important Cyberspace initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the demand for information technology and computer science professionals in the Shreveport-Bossier metropolitan area has been vigorously increasing for more than a decade, surpassing the local supply of trained personnel; and

WHEREAS, that demand has been exacerbated by the need for Cyber security workers at Barksdale Air Force Base, including qualified university graduates at the associate, baccalaureate, master's and doctoral levels; and

WHEREAS, in response to these demands, LSUS has developed in partnership with and proposed funding by the city of Shreveport for the LSUS Cyber Operations Security Institute to support the Cyber Command at Barksdale Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, LSUS has built a bioinformatics research group in conjunction with LSUHSCS that has garnered international acclaim and that LSUS has expended over six million dollars in development of its Laboratory for Advanced Bioinformatics (LABI); and

WHEREAS, the resulting strategic alliance between LSUS, LSUHSCS, and Louisiana Tech capitalizes on intellectual capital in the Ark-La-Tex region by encouraging collaborations among health care professionals, scientists, researchers, faculty and students; and

WHEREAS, pending the approval by the Board of Regents, LSUS plans to expand achievements produced by these strategic alliances and collectively, with the LSUHSCS and Louisiana Tech University, offer a cooperative doctoral degree in "Bioinformatics and Computational Biology" supported by the one million dollar Abe Sadoff Endowed Chair in

Bioinformatics which was approved and funded in part by the Board of Regents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents to take the necessary steps to approve the expanded role, scope and mission to include selected doctoral degrees at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, as approved by the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College for the Board of Regents Master Plan, 2008.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Higher Education, the chairman of the Board of Regents, and the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the chancellor of Louisiana State University in Shreveport.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES