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Would you like to keep up with the latest UL Lafayette news?

Sign up for *ENews*, a weekly electronic newsletter produced by the university's Office of Communications and Marketing.

"It's an easy, quick way to learn about what's happening at the university. Content is eclectic. It ranges from faculty accomplishments to fun facts to information about innovative research," said Christine Payton, assistant director for print media, who is in charge of *ENews*.

In addition to writing news and feature articles related to the university, Payton constantly monitors a wide range of publications for references to UL Lafayette. So she often provides links to articles that were produced by media across the United States, ranging from *The New York Times* to the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

She welcomes feedback and news tips from readers. "The response to *ENews* has been gratifying. There are a lot of people with a keen interest in UL Lafayette," she said.

Readers can access *ENews* through the university's home page, www.louisiana.edu, said Payton. "Click on the 'News' button in the top left portion of the page. It will take you to the Communications and Marketing home page. Click the 'News and Events' bar, which leads to the 'electronic news' link."

Signing up to receive *ENews* is just as simple. The Communications and Marketing home page includes a link to an online request form. "It's as easy as filling out the designated fields and clicking 'Submit.'" "The newsletter's first issue was posted in September; issues are archived for easy retrieval.

For more information, contact Payton at (337) 482-6397 or payton@louisiana.edu



Nation's education leader turns spotlight on university

UL LAFAYETTE'S COLLEGE of Education has earned national media attention for its teacher training program.

It began with coverage of a speech given by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan at Columbia University's Teacher's College in late October. He recognized Louisiana for being the first state in the country to tie student test scores to effective and ineffective teacher preparation programs. Duncan called Louisiana a model for the nation and then cited UL Lafayette.

"Officials at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette opted to increase admission requirements, added a career counseling program to better prepare teachers for the transition to the classroom, and boosted coursework requirements in English language arts. Real change, based upon the real outcomes of children—revolutionary, isn't it?" he said.

Louisiana's accountability efforts began in 2002 with the federal No Child Left Behind initiative of the Bush administra-



tion. Now, the Obama administration wants to use test scores to evaluate teachers and the universities that train them.

Reporters with *The Washington Post* and National Public Radio met with UL Lafayette officials on campus in December to learn more about the university's teacher preparation.

Post reporter Nick Anderson spoke with Dr. Joseph Savoie, president of UL Lafayette, and Dr. Gerald Carlson, dean of its College of Education. Carlson, in turn, introduced Anderson to some students and recent graduates who are now teaching in Acadiana.

In the *Post* article, Savoie described the university's initiative as "accountability on steroids" and addressed a report from the Louisiana Board of Regents that examined three years of test data from classrooms. In the report, UL Lafayette scored lower than expected in elementary

English language arts.

"We got the numbers and said, 'We've got to figure this out,'" Savoie stated in the article. He quickly gathered administrators within the college to discuss remedies and decided to increase admissions criteria and add more writing and grammar instruction to the curriculum.

"As the institution that prepares the majority of the teachers in this area, it is our responsibility to make sure our graduates are ready for the classroom and can deliver effective instruction to our children on day one. We welcome ways to ensure that this preparation is successful and have no problems looking at the data and making changes if necessary," Savoie stated in the article.

Anderson wrote, "In the tradition-bound world of teacher education, experts say, such rapid-fire decisions based on classroom test results are rare."

The article was published in a Sunday issue of the *Post*, which has a potential audience of 2 million people.

NPR's Larry Abramson interviewed Savoie and Dr. Steve Landry, UL Lafayette's provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. NPR has a potential audience of 27 million people.