

## 2010 Quantum Change Agenda K-12 Public Education Update



### CABL & Education Score Big Wins in 2010 Legislative Session

The 2010 legislative session was dominated by budget issues as state revenues continued to decline and legislators faced difficult challenges in balancing the budget. But even in the midst of serious fiscal problems, the session is being hailed by state leaders and the news media as a substantive one for education reform, with CABL's school board reform initiative named as one of the three major education bills to pass this session. We are proud to have played a major leadership role during this legislative session and glad to have actively supported all of this legislation which continues to build on Louisiana's existing foundation of impressive education reforms, which CABL has championed over the last 15 years.

#### Public Awareness

##### January

Baton Rouge Kiwanis, LA Radio Network (monthly), LPB Series, Radio Show-Monroe, Thibodaux Rotary, WJBO Radio (monthly)

##### February

Lake Charles Rotary, LSU Agricultural Center Leadership, St. Tammany West Chamber

##### March

Alexandria Rotary, American Press, Daily Comet & Houma Courier, Gambit Editorial, LPB Session Opening, Monroe News Star, Natchitoches Chamber, New Orleans Leadership, WAFB-TV, WBRZ-TV

##### April

Baton Rouge Press Club, Committee of 100, WAFB-TV, Tune In (WBRZ), Zachary Rotary

##### May

Alexandria Town Talk, Associated Press, Daily Comet & Houma Courier, GNO, Inc. and Jefferson Business Council, Lafayette Daily Advertiser, LSU Agricultural Center Leadership, Monroe Chamber, Monroe News-Star, Opelousas Daily World, Republican Caucus, Shreveport Times, The Advocate, The Jim Engster Show (WRKF), Times-Picayune, Tune In (WBRZ)

##### June

Acadiana Legislative Day, Alexandria Town Talk, Associated Press, Baton Rouge Rotary, Capital City Rotary, Democratic Caucus, Hammond Chamber, Lafayette Daily Advertiser, Monroe News-Star, Opelousas Daily World, Shreveport Times, The Advocate, Times-Picayune

#### Our Pledge

At the beginning of the session we proposed to the Legislature and the public ideas to produce better outcomes and improve student and school performance. We believe the enactment of the following legislation will have a positive impact on our children and our future.

#### The Results

✓ **School Board Reform, PASSED.** In partnership with LABI, this was CABL's signature piece of education legislation. It prohibits school board members from inappropriately interfering with a superintendent's personnel decisions and requires a two-thirds vote to dismiss a superintendent in mid-contract.

✓ **Value Added Teacher Evaluation, PASSED.** This legislation makes two significant changes in the way teachers are evaluated: 1) It requires an annual evaluation instead of one every three years and, 2) requires at least 50% of the teacher's evaluation be based on student performance using new student assessment measurements.

✓ **Red Tape Reduction, PASSED.** This bill allows local schools and districts to seek a waiver of various laws and rules if they can demonstrate how they will use it to turn around low-performing schools.

✓ **Grades for Schools, PASSED.** This legislation requires that letter grades, such as A-F, be assigned to schools and school districts to help parents better understand their levels of performance.



# 2010 Quantum Change Agenda Higher Education Update

## 2010 Legislative Session Yields Major Reforms in Higher Education

The 2010 legislative session yielded some of the most significant reforms in higher education in more than a decade. CABL played a major role in the development and passage of these reforms which have the potential to make transformative changes in post-secondary education that will position it for a more sustainable future.

### Our Goals

- Improve the performance of higher education in ways consistent with CABL recommendations made to the Post-secondary Education Review Commission in January 2010.
- Provide higher education institutions additional flexibility to adjust tuition and fees in the midst of hundreds of millions of dollars in budget cuts.
- Clarify the role and authority of the Board of Regents to improve accountability in higher education.
- Strengthen and improve the quality of workforce training, particularly in high demand fields.

### The Results

✓ **LA GRAD Act, PASSED**. CABL played a strong leadership role in the passage of this major piece of legislation which allows colleges and universities to receive some autonomy from the Legislature to adjust tuition and fees in exchange for their commitments to meet specified performance goals and objectives. All of the goals and objectives outlined in the legislation align with CABL's earlier recommendations for improving higher education.

✓ **SB 538- Board of Regents, PASSED**. This legislation clarifies the power, duties and functions of the Board of Regents to help provide additional accountability in post-secondary education.

✓ **SB 712 & 752 - Centers of Excellence, PASSED**. These bills set up a framework to create "centers of excellence" in the community and technical college system to enhance the development of a skilled workforce within various high-demand industry sectors that are of significant importance to individual regions of our state.

#### From the Education Sector

"There is no doubt that progress made in higher education policy during the 2010 Legislative Session would not have happened without the involvement of CABL. The LaGRAD Act, while perhaps not perfect, is a real step in the right direction. Please extend my thanks on behalf of the LSU Community to everyone at CABL."

- Dr. Michael V. Martin, LSU Chancellor

### Going Forward

The passage of all these bills in K-12 and higher education is significant for the future of education in Louisiana. The 2010 legislative session sent a strong message that even in the midst of serious budget problems and an unprecedented environmental disaster off our coast, leadership from elected officials and organizations like CABL can still bring about major education reforms that can have a positive impact on the future of our state.

Throughout the year, CABL will continue to monitor and comment on the implementation of this legislation to ensure that it meets our number one goal - improved educational opportunities for every citizen in Louisiana.

"Ultimately, it isn't CABL's job to fix higher education.....But at a time like this, good ideas ought to be considered."  
- Baton Rouge Business Report