MEMORANDUM

TO: System and Campus Heads

FROM: E. Joseph Savoie, Commissioner of Higher Education

RE: Workshop for Prospective Applicants to the K-16 PSR Program

In March 2005, the Board of Regents announced establishment of the K-16 Partnerships for School Reform (PSR) program, indicating that proposals for the program’s inaugural competition will be due for submission to the Board in November 2005. The K-16 PSR program requires participating campuses to develop productive external collaborations with the partnering school community, along with internal collaborations among diverse campus units and programs. Interest in and enthusiasm for this new program has been high among stakeholders across the State. The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has pledged continuing support, and is considering the addition of special BESE Support Fund monies to accelerate and sustain reform activities.

The depth and breadth of the partnerships required for proposals submitted in this program are both more extensive and intensive than for other Support Fund projects. In particular, the K-16 PSR program requires integration and leveraging across diverse funding streams and reform initiatives; in this manner alone can appropriate and sufficient resources be harnessed to maximize impact at the school site in a manner which achieves and sustains fundamental change. In light of this programmatic emphasis, and to assist in the development of strong proposals, the Board of Regents will hold a full-day workshop on October 10, 2005 for campus/school teams developing K-16 PSR proposals. The Workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in the Claiborne Building, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA.

The theme of the Workshop is “Integration and Leveraging of Funding Sources and Programs at Targeted School Sites.” Intended outcomes include: (1) identification and definition of student needs at each targeted site; (2) identification of relevant reform initiatives available for each targeted site; and (3) development of a multi-year reform plan which integrates available initiatives in a manner that effectively addresses the student needs identified. Most of the day will be devoted to respective campus/school sessions which focus on these issues. Staff of the

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Regents, the Louisiana Department of Education, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and LaSIP/LA GEAR UP will help plan and participate in these discussions.

This Workshop is open to campus/school partnership teams that are in the process of developing K-16 PSR proposals. Each partnership team should consist of up to 10 individuals, including the PI, the school principal, and the superintendent (where appropriate), or their respective designees. To assist in the collaborative planning for the Workshop, I request that campuses provide the following information according to the timelines indicated:

- Name and contact information for the project's principal investigator (by August 15, 2005)
- Name and location of the partnering school or schools (by August 15, 2005)
- Names and contact information of campus/school workshop participants (by September 15, 2005)

Please provide this information to Ms. Carrie Robison by e-mail at roider@laregents.org. Questions about the workshop or the K-16 PSR program should be directed to Dr. Kerry Davidson either by phone at (225) 342-4253 or by e-mail to davidson@laregents.org.

We appreciate your cooperation in developing this new program, and look forward to implementing this collaborative campus/school effort. We are especially appreciative of the support and collaboration of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Louisiana Department of Education.

CC: Members, Board of Regents
    Members, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
    Provosts, Vice Chancellor, and Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs
    Deans of Arts, Sciences, Business, and Education
    Institutional Research Officers
    Superintendent Cecil Picard
    Ms. Weegie Peabody
    Dr. Kerry Davidson