

# CHANCELLOR'S Notes



July 14, 2006

## LSUHSC fared well in 2006 legislative session

Governor Kathleen Blanco this week signed HB-1 into law which included funding for LSU Health Sciences Center at New Orleans. We will receive an appropriation of \$15 million to cover the remaining post-Katrina deficit in our operating budget. Also funded is an appropriation of \$4 million for faculty recruitment and retention as well as our portion, to be determined by the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Regents, of the funding for faculty increases.



We are grateful to our legislators, Governor Blanco, and Commissioner of Administration Jerry Luke LeBlanc for their continued support of LSU Health Sciences Center at New Orleans. These appropriations are central to our successful recovery. ■

## USMLE Step 1 scores reflect outstanding effort

The majority of the scores (92%) for the USMLE Step 1 exam are in and they are quite impressive. Despite the challenges and the hardships of the past year, our students had a 98% pass rate. I'm confident that the news about the remaining scores will be good as well. These scores validate the dedication and incredible effort of our faculty and students. ■

## LSUHSC interacts with US Senate subcommittees during New Orleans visit

Dr. Janis Letourneau testified for me today before the Senate Subcommittee on Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness on the impact of Katrina on our research enterprise. To learn more click on



[http://help.senate.gov/Hearings/2006\\_06\\_07\\_14\\_b/2006\\_07\\_14\\_b.html](http://help.senate.gov/Hearings/2006_06_07_14_b/2006_07_14_b.html)

Dr. Joy Osofsky was invited to participate in a meeting with Senate staffers from the Subcommittee on Education and Early Childhood Development. ■

## West Jefferson touts LSUHSC affiliation

A number of our residents joined me at a press conference Monday hosted by West Jefferson Medical Center to announce that they are now one of our teaching hospitals. Through our new affiliation agreement for graduate medical education, we have 14.5 residents and fellows there now in six programs—



Emergency Medicine, Vascular Surgery, Neurology, Pathology, Plastic Surgery, and Hyperbaric Medicine. Two more programs—Neurosurgery and Surgery—are awaiting Residency Review

Committee approval and expect to begin rotations by the end of the year. LSUHSC faculty have practiced at West Jeff for many years, including me. This new agreement strengthens our partnership to everyone's benefit. It provides us a much needed teaching hospital. It increases West Jefferson's capacity to care for patients. And it benefits the larger community by improving access to high quality care and the full resources of Louisiana's flagship academic health center. ■

## Doctoral students eligible for special incentives fund

The LSU Board of Supervisors and the Louisiana Board of Regents announced cash grants totaling \$75,000 to doctoral students at LSU campuses affected by Hurricane Katrina. The grants are limited to LSUHSC and UNO doctoral students. Eligible students

can apply for up to \$2,000 each to help pay for attending national academic conferences, research trips, or other activities deemed significant by the university. For information and an application: <http://www.lsusystem.lsu.edu/newupdates.html> ■