

CHANCELLOR'S Notes



March 16, 2007

Governor's proposed budget supports higher ed

I attended Governor Blanco's press conference at the Capitol yesterday as she unveiled her proposed budget for K-12 and higher education.



Her Executive Budget includes funding institutions of higher education at the

level of their peers in the South, funding a pay raise for faculty, funding for library and scientific acquisitions, and support for mandated costs. Governor Blanco is also proposing funding for an increase in state workers and for workforce training in allied health and nursing.

A quarter of the Governor's budget plan would fund education and another quarter would go to health care.

The Governor presented these recommendations as part of her \$29 billion Executive Budget to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget this morning. The state budget is not expected to be finalized until June.

We are grateful to Governor Blanco and her staff, as well as to Commissioner of Administration Jerry Luke LeBlanc for their continued support of higher education and health care.

LSUHSC Match good news for city and state

We celebrated our results from the National Residency Match Program main match yesterday and it was great news. Our graduating medical students matched at a higher rate than the national average at 95.5%. More of our seniors—45%—chose to remain in the state this year than last.



Jan Letourneau and senior son Phillip

Our residency programs did just as well—93% of our positions filled in the Match and the rest were quickly filled in the Scramble. This is even higher than our match rate in 2005, the last match pre-K.

LSUHSC primary care residency programs also did very well. They all filled in the Match and the Scramble. The percentage of LSUHSC medical graduates entering primary care is 47%. The national average is just under 50%.



Aimee Mistretta gets a hug while Jeremy Speeg and Jordan Watley look on

LSUHSC's average in primary care over the last ten years is 48.5%. We include OB-GYN in primary care specialties because in some Louisiana communities, the only physician is an OB-GYN.

We're gratified at the expression of faith in the quality of our residency programs and educational experience shown by our students and those who will enter our residency programs on July 1st. Notwithstanding the uncertainties we still face, we are making progress in meeting the health care needs of the people in the devastated New Orleans area and the state. A new university hospital is critical to our continued success. Given the issues of living in post-Katrina New Orleans, to remain competitive with residency programs in other states, we must be able to offer a new-era academic medical facility which the citizens of our area deserve no less as well.



Kristin Green is happy she'll stay here.