

## RESOLUTION OF THE LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY SENATE

**WHEREAS** higher education **IS** economic development,

*Louisiana Tech's Enterprise Center is already launching new businesses that provide high-paying jobs, and the proposed research park will augment that effort. There are commitments from businesses to fill the first building of the research park even now before ground breaking.*

*"Louisiana Tech University ranked #2 in the nation amongst academic institutions in terms of innovation productivity as measured by number of new inventions generated per research dollar expended, according to a report released by the Association of University Technology Managers."*  
<http://www.latech.edu/news/01292009-RandD.shtml>

**WHEREAS** higher education **IS** workforce development,

*Higher education helps people transform themselves into successful productive citizens. Higher education provides workforce training in a comprehensive portfolio of programs to meet the professional and workforce needs of businesses and citizens in order to strengthen Louisiana's competitive edge in a global marketplace.*

**WHEREAS** universities need the stability of a long-term strategy and funding source,

*Academic programs take decades to build; they cannot be abruptly shut down and restarted. Simply discussing the possibility of terminating programs can cause them to self-destruct; faculty will seek other positions; prospective students will be afraid to enroll for fear they will not be able to graduate. Academic programs that are terminated now will take decades to rebuild.*

*One-time moneys are available that could be used as a bridge until funding can be stabilized.*

**WHEREAS** even the smaller cuts being discussed will be devastating,

*An \$8.7M cut (the lesser amount being discussed) would require the elimination of whole programs and departments. **Indeed, just to get an idea of the magnitude of this cut, it is almost equivalent to the entire teaching payroll for the College of Engineering and Science at Louisiana Tech University.***

**WHEREAS** Louisiana's institutions of higher education have tremendous positive economic impact in their areas,

*Not only do the employees of higher education live and spend in the area, but also students who come to study at Louisiana's institutions of higher education live and spend in the area, contributing to the economy--and their spending in stores, restaurants, etc. creates a multiplier effect.*

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

**That we, the Louisiana Tech University Senate, respectfully request that the Governor, the Legislature, and the appropriate Boards**

- **work together to find immediate alternative remedies to address the current budget shortfall,**
- **work together to develop a long term strategy for higher education in Louisiana with matching long-term funding plans, and**
- **invest in our citizens' futures by investing in higher education.**

**THUS RESOLVED THIS DAY, THE 16<sup>th</sup> OF FEBRUARY, 2009**  
**LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY SENATE**  
**RUSTON, LOUISIANA**