



WWW.LSUHOSPITALS.ORG

- BOGALUSA MEDICAL CENTER - BOGALUSA
- EARL K. LONG MEDICAL CENTER - BATON ROUGE
- HUEY P. LONG MEDICAL CENTER - PINEVILLE
- LALLIE KEMP REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER - INDEPENDENCE
- LEONARD J. CHABERT MEDICAL CENTER - HOUMA
- MEDICAL CENTER OF LOUISIANA - NEW ORLEANS
- UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER - LAFAYETTE
- W.O. MOSS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER - LAKE CHARLES

IN THE NEWS

[[HTTP://WWW.LSUHOSPITALS.ORG/MEDIA-RELATIONS/IN-THE-NEWS.HTM](http://www.lsuhealth.org/media-relations/in-the-news.htm)]

[FRIDAY, JULY 06, 2007]

Top pick emerges for LSU president, Panel may suggest a single name today
Times – Picayune | 07.06.07

Obama promises to make New Orleans a priority, Katrina provoked shame across country, he says
Associated Press | 07.06.07

\$1.2M grant to help Louisiana's nursing shortage
CityBusiness | 07.05.07

Top pick emerges for LSU president, Panel may suggest a single name today **Times – Picayune | 07.06.07**

By Ed Anderson

BATON ROUGE -- The committee charged with finding candidates to be the next president of the Louisiana State University System is expected to unveil a short list of recommendations today, topped by John Lombardi, the controversial chancellor of the University of Massachusetts and former president of the University of Florida.

Lombardi, 64, could not be reached for comment. Published reports in The Advocate of Baton Rouge and The Boston Globe, citing unnamed sources, have said Lombardi is the leading, and possibly only, candidate in the running for the post. The LSU Board of Supervisors could vote next week on the committee's recommendation.

LSU System spokesman Charlie Zewe declined to say whether Lombardi has the inside track for the job that William Jenkins has held since 1999.

"I don't know what is going to happen" when the 17-member search committee meets today at 10 a.m., Zewe said. "There is a distinct likelihood" that the committee will submit one or more names to the full LSU Board of Supervisors for consideration. "They are moving toward a decision," he said.

The LSU System includes 11 institutions, headed by the flagship university in Baton Rouge, four other academic campuses, including the University of New Orleans, two medical schools, a law school, agriculture center and 10 public hospitals in the state's Charity Hospital System. The hospital and medical school components are expected to be a major political issue as the state moves to overhaul its health care system and to replace the Katrina-damaged Charity Hospital in New Orleans and aging facilities elsewhere.

Although LSU officials were tight-lipped about Lombardi's possible future at the 11-campus system, officials at the University of Massachusetts said Lombardi is in Louisiana and that they expected him to be recommended today as Jenkins' successor.

UMass spokesman Robert Connolly told The Boston Globe that the school has already begun preparing for Lombardi's departure. "We . . . have understood for a number of weeks that Chancellor Lombardi is moving on, and we, therefore, have already been looking to the future," Connolly said.

Lombardi, who has led the Massachusetts system's flagship campus in Amherst since 2002, reportedly was under pressure to leave at the end of the next school year after a shakeup of university leadership by system President Jack Wilson.

Known to speak his mind

Known as a fundraiser with a strong personality, Lombardi made waves at the University of Florida, where he was president from 1990 to 1999. While there, he battled with political forces and reportedly called a Florida Board of Regents policy stupid and "typical of this idiotic system." Critics and supporters alike have called him brilliant, but also irreverent, abrasive and a rogue leader.

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

A decade ago, Florida newspapers reported that Lombardi, who is white, called the first African-American chancellor at Florida State University an "Oreo," generally considered a pejorative term describing a black person who is acting like or overly accommodating to white people. Newspaper reports said Lombardi apologized and said he used "Oreo" to mean the chancellor was an African-American man who succeeded in a white world.

"We are not searching for the bishop of Rome," said Rod West, an African-American and chairman of the LSU board. "We are searching for the president of the LSU System.

West said he would like to have someone in place for the start of the fall semester, which begins in late August. Jenkins is still serving in that position, although he announced his plans to retire more than 17 months ago.

"If we are in a position to bring (a replacement) on board, we would like to bring him on at the start of the academic year. . . . My expectation is they will make a recommendation (to the board at today's meeting). . . . Whatever they recommend, the board will have the final say."

One name expected

Laura Leach, chairwoman of the search committee, could not be reached for comment Thursday. According to the agenda for today's committee meeting, Leach is scheduled to speak, and the panel is expected to take up "consideration of candidates for possible recommendation" to replace Jenkins.

The notice states the committee might go into "a nonpublic executive session to discuss . . . the character and professional competence of an applicant." No binding action can be taken at the closed session.

Dr. Jack Andonie of Metairie, a member of the Board of Supervisors but not a member of the search panel, said he expects the board "will be presented with one name. We are going to have some resolution to it," he said Thursday.

Other board members also said privately they expect Lombardi's name to be the only one submitted or at the top of a list of two or three names.

LSU officials said about 27 people have been in touch with LSU about the job: seven in a public search and at least 20 in a private search by consultants.

Besides Lombardi, the others who submitted public applications for the job, Zewe said, are:

- Dr. Edgar Ratcliffe Anderson Jr. of Chicago, president and chief executive officer of Anderson Medical Consulting and former president of the American Medical Association
- Terrance Hitchcock, adjunct professor of business at Argosy University in Prior Lake, Minn.
- Warren Jones, acting assistant dean and senior administrator of Chicago State University
- Larry Lemanski, vice president for research at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Fla.
- LSU Agriculture Center Chancellor William Richardson

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

-- Walter Wendler, chancellor and professor at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Ill.

.....

Ed Anderson can be reached at eanderson@timespicayune.com or (225) 342-5810.

<http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/frontpage/index.ssf?/base/news-8/1183703732306690.xml&coll=1>

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

Obama promises to make New Orleans a priority, Katrina provoked shame across country, he says

Associated Press | 07.06.07

By Kate Moran

U.S. Sen. Barack Obama said Thursday that the next president should wrest hurricane recovery from the lower reaches of the national agenda, where he said it has fallen as the Bush administration pours millions of dollars a day into the Iraq war -- a war he said never should have been fought.

Obama, a leading contender for the Democratic presidential nomination, said the country needs a president who will wake up every morning and deliberate how to push recovery in New Orleans forward. He spoke late Thursday night to a warm crowd at the Superdome for the Essence Music Festival.

"The role of the next president is to make sure that the rebuilding of New Orleans is at the top of the national priority list," Obama said Thursday afternoon before his appearance at the festival. "Part of the reason I think folks in Louisiana feel discouraged is that we have not heard this White House or this president even mention it. He didn't mention it in the State of the Union address, and he hasn't mentioned it since. When our president is not focused on the issue, it does not end up on the front page of the papers."

That does not mean ordinary voters are heedless of the problems that continue to haunt New Orleans, he said.

"Everywhere I go around the country as I travel, the American people haven't forgotten about New Orleans. The American people are still frustrated and angered by the lack of progress," Obama said. "I think that there's a reservoir of good will that remains to be tapped, but it's going to require some leadership."

Not only did Hurricane Katrina generate goodwill, he said, but it also provoked a collective sense of shame in the images of poverty and helplessness splayed across the news when storm victims were stranded in rancid water with no food or supplies.

That shame was reminiscent of what Americans felt 40 years ago when law enforcement officers beat and gassed civil rights marchers across the South, he said at the Superdome on Thursday night.

"The moment in which suddenly all of America looked and realized what we lost in this country was almost two years ago, right here in New Orleans, when people recognized we were no longer the America we hoped we would be, that we had lost any sense of fellow-feeling, any sense of mutual regard for each other," Obama said. "It was here in New Orleans that we realized we can't have a government that decides cronyism is more important than confidence, or rhetoric is more important than results. We were reminded of something America should not have to be reminded of: that the legacy of race and poverty in this country continues to shape our lives each and every day. That is what we understood here in New Orleans."

He exhorted the crowd to push for change, not only in the area of storm recovery, but in energy policy and the war in Iraq.

"It is not that often, maybe once in a generation, when we have an opportunity to put our shoulder against the wheel and move history in a better direction," he said. "If all of you seize that moment with me, if you are ready not just to rebuild New Orleans, but rebuild all the New

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

Orleanses all across America, in the south side of Chicago, in New York City, in Houston, then I am convinced we will not just win an election, but we are going to transform a country."

Before his appearance at the Superdome, Obama said the Iraq war has drained federal resources away from strong levees and other public works projects that are necessary to keep the country safe. He said local levees "were a disaster waiting to happen" when Hurricane Katrina roared toward New Orleans.

So was the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which he said was caught flatfooted by the storm. Obama said the next president should reform the agency from top to bottom, "starting by having somebody in charge who actually knows how to do emergency work."

Amber Wilkerson, a spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee, said the Republican Party considers hurricane recovery "an important domestic priority" and that the federal government has provided more than \$110 billion in aid under President Bush's watch. She accused Obama of using the storm "for his own political gain."

The Illinois senator reflected Thursday on the social and civic failings that came to light with the storm and have complicated the task of rebuilding.

"There was a disaster in New Orleans before the hurricane hit: problems of poverty, substandard schools, a health care system that was creaky, joblessness, crime," Obama said. "Those are chronic issues that we should not have to wait for a hurricane or a natural disaster to start addressing."

Now that crime has returned to the city in force, Obama said, government should focus on rebuilding the police force and the district attorney's office while tackling the causes of the violence.

"Like every city in America, New Orleans will continue to experience violent crime if we are not investing in approaches like early childhood education, improving the public schools, providing job opportunities to young men, in particular, and dealing with the ex-offender problem," Obama said. "We need more police and better policing, but police can only do so much if a community is in chaos."

Obama also acknowledged that staggering insurance premiums are crippling recovery efforts along the Gulf Coast. If elected, he said, he would explore the possibility of a federal reinsurance program similar to the terrorism insurance discussed for skyscrapers in cities including New York or Chicago.

"We need to make sure we are doing the kind of planning that's necessary so that we're not building in areas that present obvious hazards in the event of significant storm activity," Obama said. "But the entire city of New Orleans and the entire state of Florida are having problems now. It has more to do with the insurance companies just not wanting to take losses despite the fact that that's the whole point of insurance."

Kate Moran can be reached at kmoran@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3491.

<http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/frontpage/index.ssf?/base/news-22/1183704171306690.xml&coll=1>

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

\$1.2M grant to help Louisiana's nursing shortage

CityBusiness | 07.05.07

NEW ORLEANS - Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans today said it has been awarded a \$1.2-million grant aimed at easing the state's nursing shortage.

Awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the nursing workforce grant will be used to increase nursing program enrollment.

The funds will also be used to prepare 150 graduates to practice with "high-risk populations" in 10 medically under-served and ethnically diverse areas, LSUHSC said.

"Nursing shortages have had an enormous impact on the state's health care delivery capacity, particularly in post-(Hurricane) Katrina New Orleans," said Larry Hollier, chancellor of LSUHSC. "This grant will not only help to address the shortage of CRNAs (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist), but will also increase the diversity and cultural competence of health care delivery in our state."

In addition, through the grant, LSUHSC's School of Nursing plans to increase enrollment in the nurse anesthesia program and graduate more CRNA's from minority and disadvantaged backgrounds to improve health care access for the state's under-served populations.

In Louisiana, CRNAs provide anesthetics to patients under the supervision of a physician or dentist.

The average CRNA salary in the New Orleans area is about \$140,000 a year.

Laura Bonanno, acting program director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program, said the grant will improve minority and disadvantaged student access to graduate CRNA training.

"Since Hurricane Katrina, the New Orleans area has lost approximately 25 percent of its practicing CRNAs. The possible addition of 25 CRNAs graduating from LSU is critical to reducing the shortage of nurse anesthetists in the New Orleans area," Bonanno said.

According to recent reports from the Louisiana Board of Nursing, 6.6 percent of Louisiana's nurses are advanced practice nurses while the national average is 7.3 percent, LSUHSC said.

<http://www.neworleanscitybusiness.com/uptotheminute.cfm?recid=11526>

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)