

TIGER HAPPENINGS

"Where everybody is somebody."



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GSU FACES \$2.5 MILLION MID-YEAR BUDGET CUTS

In a letter from GSU President on Thursday January 28, 2016, Dr. Willie D. Larkin addressed the Mid-Year State budget cuts. The State of Louisiana is facing \$262 million, of which translates to a \$2,509,045 reduction for Grambling State University.

Although the University remains in a stable condition financially, the President says "this latest spending cut will be burdensome because it must be implemented for the remaining six months of this fiscal year, of which ends on June 30, 2016."

Dr. Larkin has established a Budget and Priorities Committee to develop criteria for budgetary decision-making, including the current reduction.

The committee will review previous reductions, current spending levels and priorities to establish a needed plan that protects the core mission of the institution. ([Read More](#)).

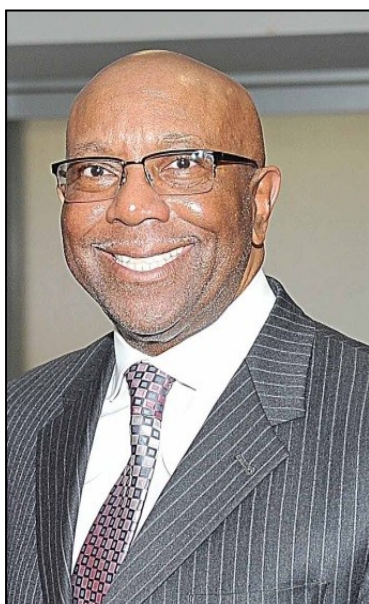


Willie D. Larkin, Ph.D.
President

President's Corner

Grambling State University was dealt a serious blow the end of January when Governor John Bel Edwards announced a mid-year budget reduction of \$262 million to all state agencies, with \$131 million of that number to affect Louisiana's institutions of higher education. Grambling's personal financial loss from these budget cuts equates to \$2,509,045. Though we are feeling particularly vulnerable here at Grambling, we are not alone. In fact, a state-wide economic downturn and budget cuts are putting Louisiana's entire higher education system at risk for a number of reasons. A January 23, 2016 article in *The Advocate* listed these disquieting facts since past Governor Jindal took office eight years ago: ([read more](#))

New Jobs Coming to the City of Grambling



City of Grambling Mayor
Edward Jones

The Mayor of the City of Grambling has a vision and plan to bring the city new jobs.

Mayor Edward Jones says "In 2011, the council voted and approved for the city to purchase more than 9 acres of land near Interstate-20 for the purpose of start Commercial business for city".

Phase one of this project is slated to begin in three weeks. It is estimated to cost 10-million dollars some of which was able to be secured through federal funding to support this project.

One of the businesses that plan to be in this location is Sullivan's Grocery out of Brookhaven, Mississippi. ([Read more](#)).



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Sociology Professor Leads Recruiting Effort in Miami-Dade County

One Grambling professor has successfully proved that recruiting can be done on a budget.

Matthew Sheptoski, an assistant professor of sociology, completed his third annual recruiting trip at high schools in Miami-Dade County, Florida, for a cost of less than \$500.

He visited four high schools from Dec. 15-17, 2015 at a cost of only \$416, and returned with contact information for 81 students who are interested in attending Grambling.

Sheptoski, a former social science instructor at Lawrence Academy Charter School in Florida, is looking to give high school students in the Miami area a chance that his students never had. Out-of-state

college recruiters did not visit the school he worked for, so Sheptoski is looking to fill that gap by encouraging students in the Miami area to consider out-of-state college options like Grambling State University.

"I have a connection to Miami Dade County, because I taught there for a few years," he said. "When I taught at the charter school, there were no out-of-state schools coming to visit and recruit our students, but I knew there were students who were interested in looking at that possibility. When I came to Grambling, I said that I will be the guy that comes to Miami to recruit these students. I am thankful to Dr. Janet Guyden and the university for their support."

He visited two new high schools, Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School and Miami Carol City Senior High School, along with two schools he has visited on previous trips, North Gardens High School and Miami Edison Senior High School.

Sheptoski feels that his status as a professor who may one day be teaching the students he is recruiting helps him connect with the high schoolers.

"I think one of the things that the students like is that I am not a professional recruiter, and I don't have a slick presentation. Some of the students seem to like that they could come to Grambling, and I could one day be their professor. Even though I love getting out of the classroom and into the high schools, I love coming back to Grambling. I know that I am in the right place in higher education at Grambling."



Matt Sheptoski, an assistant professor of sociology, meets with students at Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School in North Miami, Florida, during an annual recruiting trip.

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Professor's Artwork Displayed in Politics and Social Conscience Exhibition

A Grambling State University professor's artwork is being featured in an exhibition where artists use their work to interpret social and political events in today's changing world.

Rodrecas Davis, an assistant professor of art, will have his work displayed in the "Politics: Artist as Witness, Memory Keeper & Social Conscience" exhibit at the Hudgens Center for the Arts in Duluth, Georgia, from Jan. 12-Mar. 26.

"It is always great to be invited to an exhibition," Davis said. "Artists spend a lot of time chasing down exhibition opportunities. Being invited to be in a show is the highest honor. Looking at the cohort of artists made it all the more exciting. There are many artists who I admire whose work is more phenomenal than mine. I will be in good company in this show."



Rodrecas Davis

In light of the Black Lives Matter Movement, government's increasing infringement on civil liberties, the continued inequality of women in our society and around the world, the economic gap, and the growing alienation of society from the natural world, Jerushia Graham, curator of the Hudgens Center, invited 12 artists whose work addresses this wide breadth of topics.

"I will have at least four pieces in the exhibit. They are pieces in the shapes of church fans that can be found throughout Southern churches. "The church fan is used as a canvas to interpret various national flags, the Confederate battle flag and the different ethnicities that we know of as Southern people. Where and how these things intersect, to some degree, determines what it means to be a Southerner," Davis said.

Additional artists include Jamaal Barber, Jessica Caldas, Alfred Conteh, Jessica Scott Felder, Shanequa Gay, Deborah Grayson, Carlton Mackey, Shoccara Marcus, Masud Olufani, Iman Person and Dante Yarbrough. For more information, contact the Hudgens Center at 770-623-6002 or visit www.thehudgens.org.

GSU Track Athlete Named SWAC Women's Track Performer of the Week

Congratulations to Grambling State University's sophomore Chellane Jones. She was the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Women's Track Performer of the Week after winning the women's 200-meter dash in Oklahoma at the J.D. Martin Invitational. She who won 200-meter dash in Oklahoma with 24.79 seconds.

Mississippi Valley State's Eric Chism, Grambling States' Chellane Jones, and Southern's Reginald Redding and Georgeanna Felder have been recognized by the Southwestern Athletic Conference as Track and Field Athletes of the Week for their outstanding performances in competition during January 15-16.



Chellane Jones

Giving back is your best gift, [donations accepted here.](#)

Questions, additions or comments? Contact mediarelations@gram.edu or call 318-274-2866.