

From the Regents' statewide perspective, the components of a balanced system of postsecondary education can be categorized as (1) comprehensive research universities, (2) specialized units, (3) statewide universities, (4) regional universities, and (5) community and technical colleges.

A *comprehensive research university* generally offers a wide range of programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels, but does not usually offer programs below the baccalaureate level. Research is generally directed to the solution of societal problems and the advancement of knowledge. Public service is far-reaching and varietal in nature. Typically, selective admissions and higher tuition characterize the comprehensive research university.

*Specialized units* typically offer academic and community education programs, conduct research, provide services in a particular field such as agriculture, law or health sciences, and are characterized by small or no enrollment. Like the comprehensive research university, specialized units are typically distinguished by selective admissions and higher tuition.

*Statewide universities* offer a wide range of programs at the undergraduate and masters levels, with selective offerings at the doctoral level. Research is selective in nature, focusing on those areas of graduate expertise. Typically, moderately selective admissions and higher tuition characterize the statewide university.

*Regional universities* offer a wide range of programs at the undergraduate and selected graduate offerings, primarily below the doctoral level. Research is limited and typically related to the institution's instructional mission. Public service activities generally emphasize services to the citizens, government agencies, business, and industry located in the region served by the institution. Regional universities generally are less selective than statewide and comprehensive research universities.

*Community and technical colleges* typically are characterized by open admissions, lower tuition, and a wide variety of technical associate degree, certificate and diploma programs focusing on workforce training. Liberal arts and science associate degree programs are offered for students planning to transfer to four-year institutions. Research activity is limited in the community and technical colleges.

Not unlike the governance structures of postsecondary education, the assignment of institutions to the various boards is the result of recommendations, referendums, historical developments, and political considerations. For the same reasons described above regarding governance, if one were to start from scratch in assigning institutions to management boards, the alignment of institutions and boards would likely look different. Institutions would be assigned to the board which most closely aligns with the mission of the board, e.g., 2-year institutions under a 2-year system, research institutions under a research system, regional institutions under a regional board, etc. The Board of Regents understands that the current institutional assignments are statutorily determined by the Legislature.

### Structure Challenges

Under the leadership of the four boards, system members forge partnerships and agreements which can foster efficiencies, effectiveness and excellence. However, the organization of institutions under the four systems can sometimes deter such arrangements when institutions are geographically located in the same region (or in proximate regions) but are from different systems. While it is not uncommon for institutions or individual departments to have formal/informal agreements with nearby institutions, especially in the areas of articulated academic programs and cross-enrollment agreements, seldom are there agreements that unify programs, administrative functions and processes, especially across systems.

States normally designate regions for purposes of economic development, labor markets, etc. Although various agencies in Louisiana divide the State into regions for a variety of purposes, the most commonly used structure is Louisiana's