

## KEEPING OUR PROMISE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Blueprint Louisiana's second Accountability Report recaps our involvement in the 2009 legislative cycle. In a legislative session dominated by lack of money, Blueprint was still able to accomplish both of its "New Economy" agenda items — the pursuit of a strategic research alliance model for Louisiana and the initial implementation of a performance-based formula to fund higher education in the state. We continue to make progress, but there is still important work to be done. We encourage you to get involved or stay involved with Blueprint Louisiana as we continue to pursue the state we deserve.

### Strategic Research Alliance Model for Louisiana

Blueprint Louisiana was successful in passing its only stand-alone piece of legislation in the 2009 legislative session, Senate Bill 211 by Senator Dan Claitor of Baton Rouge. The bill ensures that key topics such as technology transfer, high-growth industry segments and a strategic research alliance model for Louisiana will be evaluated by the council within the first year. The bill also requires the council to report back to the Legislature in the first quarter of 2010. The bill passed 35 to 0 in the Senate and 94 to 0 in the House. (Special thanks to Representative Franklin Foil for handling the bill on the House side.) Governor Jindal signed the bill into law on June 19, and Act. No. 82 became effective on August 15.

### Performance-Based Formula to Fund Higher Education

In our many higher education funding discussions with lawmakers and the administration, we advocated for the implementation of a performance-based formula to fund our higher education institutions. The performance-based formula is a departure from funding based simply on enrollment, which Blueprint believes failed to incentivize growth in alignment with workforce needs, research in alignment with economic development potential, or achievement of overall state education priorities.

We commend the Louisiana Board of Regents, Higher Education Commissioner Sally Clausen, and our higher education system presidents for developing and finalizing the performance-based funding formula and allowing the four systems (Louisiana State University, Southern University, University of Louisiana and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System) three years to phase in this new funding formula. Performance-based funding will play a key role in producing a "right-sized" higher education system that's smarter, more efficient, and better at turning out qualified graduates that can compete and succeed in today's global, knowledge-based economy.

We cannot hope to accomplish the unfinished Blueprint agenda items without the support and help of Louisiana citizens. We are effective when our members and other Louisiana citizens are interested and engaged. The next two years could be some of the most challenging fiscal times faced by the state. Your input is vital to the future of Louisiana. Visit our website at [www.blueprintlouisiana.org](http://www.blueprintlouisiana.org) to see how you can get involved.

[www.blueprintlouisiana.org](http://www.blueprintlouisiana.org)

**It's time to create the state we deserve.**

**BLUEPRINT  
LOUISIANA**