



## **Donahue: University Consolidation A Good First Step**

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State Sen. Jack Donahue this evening hailed Gov. Bobby Jindal's proposal to consolidate the University of New Orleans and Southern University of New Orleans as a good first step that will require additional follow-through.

"We've been talking about this for 18 months, and I'm very happy to see Gov. Jindal taking a first step," Donahue said. "As the governor knows, this effort should be part of a larger plan to improve the education system while cutting costs, and I look forward to the next phases of this proposal."

Donahue, who spearheaded the establishment of the state's Streamlining Commission in 2009, also serves on the Senate Education Committee. He is an outspoken advocate for strengthening the state education system and making government more efficient at all levels.

"In a time of budgetary crisis when we are facing funding reductions in state education programs, it is wise to seek consolidation and efficiency instead of across-the-board cuts," Donahue said. "I still believe we need to reevaluate each of the state's 14 universities, changing the organization of some and consolidating the services of others. Rather than force higher education to face deep cuts that hurt every institution, we should look at additional consolidation opportunities to cut expenses without damaging the higher education system. In fact, such a systematic approach will enhance our educational offerings."

