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NEWS

Report: Four held dual jobs

By **MICHELLE MILLHOLLON**
Advocate Capitol News Bureau
 Published: May 7, 2010 - Page: 11A

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Four state workers appear to have violated state law by holding two full-time positions in state government at the same time, according to a report issued Thursday by the state Inspector General's Office.

The report focuses on employees who worked for state agencies as well as public universities or colleges.

"Since we question whether these employees actually worked hours for which they were paid, the salaries of at least their lower paying positions is questionable," the report says.

Officials with the Inspector General's Office said they reviewed state employment records after reading an article in The Advocate last year about state workers who make more than \$70,000 a year.

State law prohibits dual full-time employment in state government. In other words, a state worker is only allowed to hold one full-time state job.

The report notes that:

- Samantha Ackers worked for the Baton Rouge Community College and the Governor's Office on Mental Health Advocacy Services. Her combined pay was \$83,275.20.
- Sharon Shelmire worked for the Baton Rouge Housing Authority and the University of New Orleans. Her

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combined pay was \$75,264.

- Betty Carter worked for LSU Interim Public Hospital and Delgado Community College. Her combined pay was \$141,873.60.
- Coletha Riley worked for LSU Interim Public Hospital and Delgado Community College. Her combined pay was \$148,055.12.

The Inspector General's Office said Ackers and Shel mire were less than forthright about their dual employment status.

The report says Ackers told Baton Rouge Community College she only worked 16 hours of outside employment on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In reality, the report says, Ackers was a full-time, salaried attorney for the state at the same time she was working as an assistant English professor.

Shelmire did not tell the Housing Authority that she was working for UNO until she was questioned about it and then falsely characterized her second job as part-time, the report says.

BRCC Chancellor Myrtle Dorsey said in a letter included with the report that Ackers was terminated on Feb. 18.

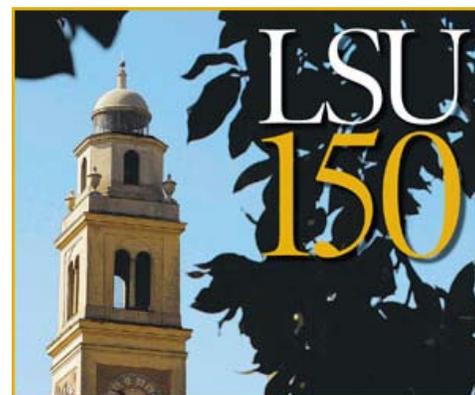
Kevin Robshaw, director of the Governor's Office of Mental Health Advocacy Services, told the Inspector General's Office that Ackers resigned rather than answer questions about her responsibilities at BRCC.

Ackers said in a letter that she did not immediately realize she was violating state law by holding two full-time jobs.

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