



PAR leader Brandt to retire

By Marsha Shuler
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Public Affairs Research Council president Jim Brandt announced Thursday that he will retire at year's end.

Brandt has been chief of the private, nonprofit research and public policy organization for 11 years.

Brandt said in retirement he plans to stay active in the public policy arena, just not on a full-time basis.

“I want to do some other things — certainly travel and spend more time with other outside interests but still stay involved,” said Brandt, noting he would like to get in shape to run another marathon.

“It seemed like this was the right time in between (legislative) sessions.”

Brandt said he plans to remain in Baton Rouge.

The PAR board of directors has established a transition committee to handle the search for a new president. LSU economist Jim Richardson, a former PAR board chairman, will chair the committee.

Applications are being accepted until Aug. 23, with a successor to be named in late 2010. A position announcement will be posted on the PAR Web site, <http://www.la-par.org>.

PAR Board chairwoman Donna Saurage thanked Brandt for “his terrific contribution” to the group’s work and his participation “in building a permanent endowment fund that will ensure PAR’s work will continue to be a trusted source of high-quality, independent analysis for the citizens of Louisiana.”

Brandt was appointed president of PAR in May 1999. His career has spanned more than 40 years in government administration, public policy research and nonprofit management.

Prior to joining PAR, he served for 12 years as president and chief executive officer of the Bureau of Governmental Research in New Orleans.

During his tenure at PAR, he led the development of a \$3 million permanent endowment fund for research, and he also served as president of the board of trustees for the national Governmental Research Association.

Brandt is the author of more than 75 studies or reports in the areas of governmental finance, state and local tax issues, public administration and governmental structure and organization. In addition, he has received numerous national, state and local awards for his work.

PAR was founded in 1950 and is a 501c (3) tax-exempt organization supported by foundation and corporate grants and individual donations.