



July 2018 ISSUE

FROM THE TOP

Dear Academy Board Members and Leaders,

The fourth of July always serves as a reminder that summer is moving along and that school is right around the corner. I hope you are enjoying sunny, warm days spent with family and friends. Although fall seems like a distant event, it is fast approaching.

I am pleased to announce a new opportunity for 2018-19. Dykema Gossett will be providing regional charter school law and legislative training; one in Grand Rapids, Detroit, and Northern Michigan. Dykema Gossett has been integral in writing charter school law in Michigan and we are fortunate to offer this caliber of training. More to come as details are finalized.

Additionally, we are pleased to continue to offer a series of three training opportunities for our boards led by Angie Irwin. We look forward to supporting you in the 2018-19 school year.

Sincerely,

Chris Oshelski

LSSU Charter Schools Director

In The News

A variety of summer camps are in full swing at LSSU. It is nice to see so many charter school students taking advantage of these opportunities. Camps range from specific



charter school camps to camps focused on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Music), Health Care, and Leadership. Julia Roque, Summer Camp Director, commented, "Our goal is to provide a memorable experience for our summer campers when they come to LSSU. For many students it is the first time they have an overnight stay on a college campus, cross the Mackinac Bridge, dip their feet in Lake Superior, and participate in science education in state of the art laboratories. Each group has unique experiences and in my conversations with students, I have learned that they all take different things away from their camp experience. The responses from students range from I enjoyed the frog dissection to I wish my school cafeteria had an ice cream machine! We love hosting your students on our campus. Thank you!"

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

As mentioned in the April newsletter, we are moving to adopt new Educational Goals for 2018-19. Let me explain why we feel this change is necessary.

Historically, we've expected a 70% gap closure between a student's fall score and the spring college readiness target. This is extremely difficult to obtain, especially if a student is behind. Yes, we want students to be college and career ready but we also want to be fair. From this point on, we will evaluate growth solely based on Student Conditional Growth Percentiles (SCGP). Using SCGP's allows us to compare each student against a "like" student. Students who score similarly in the fall are again compared in the spring and ranked based on their spring performance.

We are also adopting the 2015 NWEA Norms instead of the CMU College Readiness Targets. Keep in mind college and career readiness targets are higher than the 50th percentile. For more information, see the link below.

<https://www.nwea.org/resources/2015-comparative-data/>

THE EVOLUTION OF AUTHORIZING

LSSU CSO is constantly looking for ways to improve as an authorizer, whether it be tweaking your Educational Goals, streamlining our professional development processes, or implementing new policies/processes to ensure consistency, our quest to better serve you is continuous. This year, we are working with our LSSU graphics department to improve our annual reports. We will plan on providing a Comprehensive Report that will include financial, academic, compliance, and governance components. This Comprehensive Report will come out annually in January/February and will contain authorizer information as well as a one page snapshot of each academy's performance. The first CR will be published in Winter 2020 and contain 2018-19 data.

You will also still receive separate reports in the core areas; finance, academics, compliance, and governance that will be more detailed.

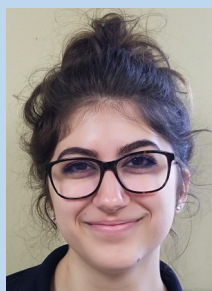
New Staff Alert

We'd like to introduce you to the newest member of our team. Meet Natalie Fenchel, our work study student. Natalie hails from Traverse City, is a graduate of Grand Traverse Academy, and is enrolled in the nursing program at LSSU. A fun fact about Natalie is that both of her parents are nurses as well. Talk about following in her parent's footsteps!

Natalie is also a recipient of the Jr. Laker Scholarship which is made available to students who graduate from an academy authorized by LSSU. Scholarship recipients must possess a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 and earned a composite score of at least 1150 on the SAT. The scholarship has a potential value of up to \$8,000.

Natalie is very grateful for the scholarship stating, "The Jr. Laker Scholarship has allowed me to pursue my dream of becoming a nurse. Having been a graduate of an academy chartered by LSSU, I feel as if I was well prepared for the rigor of college courses. I sincerely appreciate the financial assistance by LSSU which has lessened my burden of how I'll finance my education."

WELCOME
Natalie!



COMPLIANCE CORNER

- ◆ To better serve our academies, the Charter Schools Office has made some changes to Field Officer assignments in the southeast Michigan location. Be sure to ask your academy administration as to whether this change applies to you.
- ◆ Epicenter Compliance Tasks are under review for FY 2018-19. We will be adding, deleting, and revising some tasks. Look for a memo outlining changes in the coming months.

FINANCE UPDATE

- ◆ The CSO has updated due dates, descriptions, and requirements for several finance related Epicenter tasks; a memo is forthcoming. Please log into Epicenter to view the tasks or email Becky Clawson for more information at rclawson@lssu.edu

A SHOUT OUT!

Kudos to **Brooke Maciag**, our School Support Specialist, for creating a LSSU CSO Professional Learning Catalog for 2018-19! This catalog will be available on our CSO website under Professional Development. Users will be able to view what professional development opportunities are available for the year as well as pertinent information such as the title, date, location, lunch option, cost, and whether SCECH's will be offered. A registration link will also be included.

We are excited to streamline our PD process and look forward to hearing feedback from all of you.
The link is listed below.

<https://www.lssu.edu/charter-schools/professional-development/>