

## Superior Education, Superior Experience, Superior You

### MISSION

We equip our graduates with the knowledge, practical skills, and inner strength to craft a life of meaningful employment, personal fulfillment, and generosity of self within an inclusive atmosphere, all while enhancing the quality of life of the Great Lakes region and the world.

### VISION

We believe in an innovation-driven, transformative education for all. We identify potential, enable success, drive social mobility, and develop students into professionally prepared graduates who excel locally, nationally and globally.

### CORE VALUES

- **Excellence in Teaching and Learning:** Student learning is our first priority and focuses on providing student/faculty interaction, learning, and research in current, relevant programs.
- **Opportunity:** Students have a wide range of opportunities to grow academically, professionally, culturally and socially. Opportunities are provided via work-study assignments, student organizations, internships, community outreach and leadership.
- **Diversity:** Students experience a campus community environment that is inclusive and welcoming.
- **Ethics and Values:** The University promotes an environment that values freedom of expression, the pursuit of truth, honesty, openness, and courteous behavior where everyone is treated with respect.
- **Stewardship:** LSSU provides a framework in which to leave the university and region financially and environmentally sound for future generations of LSSU students, alumni, and friends.

### ASPIRATIONAL VALUES

- **Global Interdependence** – As part of a global society we promote and celebrate exchange among world cultures through international student recruitment, on-campus support for international students, and promotion of opportunities abroad for students, faculty, and staff. Thus, we bring LSSU to the world and the world to LSSU.
- **Social Mobility** – At LSSU, we are committed to equal access to higher education opportunities that lead to social mobility. LSSU's supportive, personalized, and welcoming atmosphere particularly benefits first-generation students and those from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. As one of the few four-year universities in Michigan that grants associate degrees, we are uniquely poised to serve students through the Tuition Incentive Program (or TIP) funding, while facilitating a smooth transition from an associate degree to a bachelor's degree with guaranteed application of all credits. We are committed to providing resources to students that lead to their success.
- **Innovation** – LSSU embraces innovation as an aspirational value. Given demographic, political, technological, and policy shifts affecting higher education, the University cannot – and will not – stand still. Innovation in the context of this strategic plan means we will unveil new academic programs and enact new processes and methods of teaching; develop new enrollment-driven initiatives; enrich the student experience with both tradition and bold new efforts that enhance the overall student experience; and enhance support networks and interventions for student success. Our innovative process will rely on a strong culture of assessment and data-informed decisions to drive student success and University growth.



- **Student Learning and Development** – Through curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular experiences, students develop skills that transform them and set them on an upward social mobility trajectory. They will be ready to excel in the jobs of today and have the training to keep them competitive in a rapidly changing, globally interdependent arena.
- **Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging** – Everyone should have equal possibility to find their place at LSSU, to feel like they belong, and to have a shared Laker identity. Our diversity reflects the many ways in which individuals and communities uniquely identify – socioeconomic, first-generation status, veteran status, religious, racial, sexual orientation, ethnic, or political – contributing distinct and valuable experiences and perspectives to the makeup of the university.
- **Fiscal Resilience and Operational Excellence** – A strong, stable fiscal position is paramount to the University growing and thriving as a vibrant campus and community, where students pursue their education and where faculty and staff grow in their careers. The choice of the word resilience over sustainability is purposeful in that we wish to maintain and create systems that can withstand changes and still function efficiently. Operational excellence will require investment in LSSU’s human capital, underlying technologies, and campus infrastructure, while addressing budgetary challenges.
- **Community Partnerships and Engagement** – As a key economic anchor in Sault Ste. Marie and the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan, LSSU has and will foster a symbiotic relationship with the community. A healthy relationship with area partners will not only help our students thrive, it will enrich the community as a whole. The success of LSSU as a university is co-dependent on the strength of our neighboring communities and on the strength of our relations with them.
- **Sustainability** – Development of sustainability at LSSU requires that we push beyond our current boundaries toward new initiatives, requiring some initial investment and ultimately leading to a healthier planet, enriched academic experiences, and ongoing institutional savings.

To view the entire LSSU Strategic Plan for 2020-2025, click on the link below.

<https://www.lssu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/LSSU-Strategic-Plan-2020-25-DIGITAL.pdf>