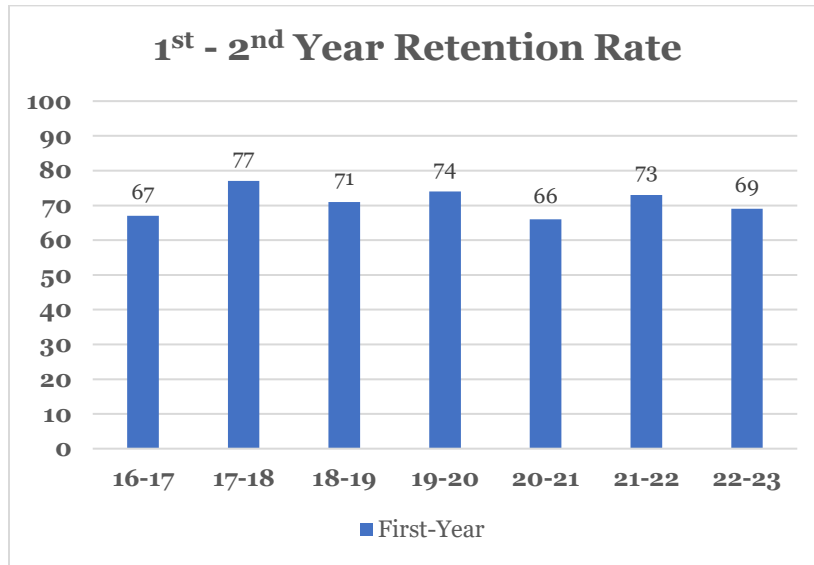


## Student Affairs Report November 17, 2023

### Agenda Item #1: Dashboard

 Information

 Action

 Discussion


	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
<b>1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year All</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>69%</b>
Male	68.3%	76.0%	68.2%	70.5%	65.0%	71.0%	65.4%
Female	70.4%	77.8%	73.1%	77.2%	69.8%	73.0%	73.1%
First-Generation	63.3%	71.8%	67.0%	69.3%	**	**	**
Not First-Generation	76.5%	82.2%	74.9%	80.7%	**	**	**
Low-Income	69.3%	68.4%	63.9%	71.9%	57.5%	64.1%	63.7%
Not Low-Income	69.3%	87.4%	79.5%	77.5%	80.2%	78.8%	75.7%
Native American	63%	68%	69%	54.6%	80%	100%	57.1%

Source: IPEDS, LSSU Institutional Research

\*\* Before registering for Spring 2024, students must respond to the question, “Are you the first person in your family to attend college?” We will use these data to address inaccuracies with how we count first-generation students.

### Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

**President's Recommendation:**

N/A



## Student Affairs Report November 17, 2023

### Agenda Item #2: Retention Update

Information

Action

Discussion

#### **Purpose:**

This report is an overview of the work that Student Affairs has accomplished since the last meeting and provides a preview into the work that will continue in the next academic year.

#### **Background:**

The Division of Student Affairs is dedicated to creating a greater sense of belonging and community on-campus among students, faculty, and staff; increasing retention, especially from first to second year; raising levels of student engagement; and partnering across campus to support students' needs.

#### ***Retention***

The first-to-second-year retention rate is a key performance indicator for Lake Superior State University. Our strategic plan lists a 75% retention rate in Goal 1.3 and Strategy 3.2.8. The retention rate is a percentage that measures the extent to which first time in any college (FTIAC) students entering the university in the summer or fall at a full-time, bachelor's degree-seeking status return the subsequent fall.

The most recent retention rate in the dashboard of 69.1% is for the cohort that began in Fall (or summer) 2022 and returned to LSSU in Fall 2023.

Scholars argue that the first year is a critical time for university students to build a foundation for a successful academic career (e.g., Tinto, 2009). Foundations for success include establishing friendships, relationships with faculty and staff members, developing study skills, and becoming involved in campus organizations. The extent to which students begin their university experience well factors heavily in their decision to stay at or depart from LSSU, and also influences their sense of belonging.

#### ***Pell Grant Recipients: Retention & Graduation***

A Pell Grant is a type of financial aid program that provides funding to eligible undergraduate students to help cover the costs of their postsecondary education. These grants are typically awarded to students with a demonstrated financial need, and they do not have to be repaid, making them a valuable resource for those pursuing higher education.

Pell Grants are primarily awarded to undergraduate students who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree. A key determinant for Pell eligibility is demonstrated financial need, which is determined by the Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is calculated based on information provided on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The lower the EFC, the higher the Pell Grant eligibility. Award amount of a Pell Grant can vary from year to year and depends on factors such as EFC, cost of attendance at one's chosen institution, and whether one attends school on a full-time or part-time basis. The maximum Pell Grant award for the 2023-2024 academic year was \$7,395. Pell Grants have a lifetime eligibility limit, meaning a student can receive the grant for up to 12 full-time semesters or the part-time equivalent. Upon receipt of a bachelor's degree or reaching the limit, a student is no longer eligible for Pell Grants.

Monitoring the success rates of Pell Grant recipients is important for several reasons. First, they are awarded to students from lower financial backgrounds. It stands to reason, then that Pell Grant recipients are statistically more likely to stop out or leave LSSU than non-Pell Grant recipients, which creates a retention and persistence issue. Our institutional data lists our first-to-second year retention rates among Pell Grant recipients.

	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
<b>1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year All</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>69%</b>
Pell Recipients	65.5%	65.8%	64.7%	71.2%	58.6%	62.6	57.0%

Source: LSSU Institutional Data

Graduation rates of Pell Grant recipients also provide a key measure of student success. LSSU's Pell Grant recipient over the last several years are shown below. The data in the table provide a raw number of Pell Grant recipients who graduated compared to the raw number of total LSSU graduates, and then is shown in percentage of the total graduating class. As demonstrated in the table, LSSU has anywhere between 30%-35% of its graduating class as Pell Grant recipients.

Term	Pell Graduates	Total Graduates	% of Pell : Graduates
2015	178	527	33.78%
2016	150	420	35.71%
2017	147	444	33.11%
2018	160	466	34.33%
2019	144	402	35.82%
2020	143	426	33.57%
2021	120	388	30.93%
2022	111	357	31.09%
2023	97	322	30.12%

Source: LSSU Institutional Research

LSSU is committed to students' social and economic mobility. Pell Grant recipient student success data provide a proxy indicator for the university's delivery on its promise of creating social mobility for its students. *Washington Monthly* and *US News and World Report* rankings both rely on Pell Grant recipient data for their respective social mobility measures. Given LSSU's continued presence on the high end of rankings and its continued emphasis on the value proposition of social mobility, we will more purposely track and highlight the success, retention, and persistence of students who are Pell Grant recipients. These data can add further insight about the areas of need for intervention by LSSU faculty and staff to ensure against attrition.

**Suggested Action/Motion:**

N/A

**President's Recommendation:**

N/A



## Student Affairs Report November 17, 2023

### Agenda Item #3: Student Affairs Update

Information

Action

Discussion

#### **Purpose:**

This item provides a general update of Student Affairs operations and programs.

#### **Background:**

The Division of Student Affairs works to create a greater sense of belonging and community among all students, faculty, and staff. Among top priorities for the Division are increasing retention (especially from first-to-second year), generating revenue through auxiliary units, boosting student engagement, and collaborating throughout campus to support students' needs.

#### ***Laker Success Program***

Lake Superior State University was awarded a competitive Select Student Support Services (4S) grant through the King-Chavez-Parks (KCP) Initiative of the State of Michigan. The grant is valued at \$616,776, with equal annual distributions of \$102,796 to the Laker Success each year. The grant requires a minimum 30% match with an encouragement to increase the match each year as a demonstration of institutionalizing improvements made possible by the grant.

The 4-S Program is created to develop retention initiatives to benefit students in 4-year public and independent educational institutions in Michigan who also face academic or economic disadvantages. The 4-S Program is also meant to enhance graduation rates by offering initial financial support to catalyze institutional improvements. This financial support is meant to encourage educational institutions to collaborate more effectively and consistently, ultimately leading to tangible and lasting enhancements in the graduation rates of the identified student population, both in the short and long term.

The funding pays for one full-time staff salary and covers a percentage of salaries for the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Student Affairs Office Coordinator, and the Residence Hall Coordinator for Conduct and Engagement. Another 17 student positions are funded by the grant: 12 Peer Mentors, 2 Program Planners, 2 Student Engagement Center Monitors, and 1 Tutoring Center/SI Liaison. Finally, the fund covers expenses for materials students can use for academic success, programming and events, and guest speakers and/or vendors.

## ***Retention***

The Laker Success program plays a key role in retention and engagement efforts. Use of the Student Engagement Center (SEC), the home of Laker Success, increased 60% this year, moving from a monthly average of 81 student visitors to a monthly average of 130.

The early alert process continues to be routed through Laker Success. The process is also supported by colleagues working under the Title III grant. At the writing of this report, 89 early alerts were submitted. Each alert prompts an attempt to contact the student identified to determine the need(s) and work toward a successful experience. The initial solicitation for early alerts comes by the second week of the semester. Subsequent solicitations follow on a steady cadence and usually peak around midterms. The timing of early alert submissions is seen below.

<b>Fall 2023</b>	
August	0
September	25
October	49
November	15
December	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>

The majority of the early alerts received were for students living on-campus. The two on-campus locations with the highest number of early alerts are Brady Hall and Osborn Hall. Brady is used solely to house first-year students, while Osborn is home to a majority of students in their first year.

<b>Living Location</b>	<b>#</b>
Brady	22
Osborn	15
Student Village	12
Townhouses	5
Row Houses	4
Moloney/ Neveu	1
Off-campus	30

## ***Engagement***

Student Affairs contributed strongly to the success of Great Lake State Weekend (GLSW). We held our second annual (rubber) Duck Hunt, Community Graffiti, and Face Painting activities. At the writing of this report, the social media post about the duck hunt was played nearly 2,200 times and seen by over 1,100 accounts. Community graffiti had 60 guests leave their mark on giant canvases while 72 students, community members, and out of town family members had their faces painted.

University Recreation (UREC) also hosted the annual Oozeball Tournament, where student teams competed for the coveted mud volleyball trophy. Miss Mermaid Michigan returned to the Norris Pool and made a splash with local kids (and adults), who realized their dreams of

swimming with a mermaid. The Arbuckle Student Activity Center was home to the annual GLSW Tailgate, during which kids could ride a unicorn while parents could grab a drink from the only Beerboni in Michigan. Following the hockey games, UREC staff and the Norris Center hosted a post-game movie and open skate well attended by the community.

Looking ahead, Campus Life and University Activities Board are planning a bigger Snow Fest for January 2024. Potential events include:

1. Hall Wars
  - Lake State Chopped – LSSU version of the TV cooking show
  - Lip Sync Battle
  - Obstacle Course – outdoor relay-style events
  - Art in the Yard – an outdoor art competition during which teams create sculptures or murals
  - Cheer Camps – attending designated athletic events as color-coded cheer sections
2. Snow Sculpture competition
3. Igloo Building competition
4. Winter Outdoor Survival Workshop
5. Red Cross Make Your Own First Aid Kit
6. Starry Strides – nighttime snowshoeing
7. Snowcoming Dance

### ***Revenues***

Parties with Seamore continue to be a hit with most weekends having 1-2 parties. The parties are modest revenue generators, but are not labor-intensive and are generally net profits and are a source of positive community good will. Other community programs like tennis, pickleball, and walking groups provide great engagement opportunities for community members.

Norris will be a key host of the Katie Robinson Memorial Showcase in February 2024. The Showcase is held in memory of Katie Robinson, who was intended to transfer to LSSU to play ACHA Women's Hockey before her tragic and untimely death in June 2021. The event planning team anticipated over 400 people – players and families – stepping foot in the Norris Center for games and/ or social activities during the Showcase weekend.

### **Suggested Action/Motion:**

N/A

### **President's Recommendation:**

N/A





**Student Affairs Report**  
**November 17, 2023**

**Agenda Item #4: Housing Initiative**

Information                       Action                       Discussion

**Purpose:**

This item is an update about an initiative to increase residence hall occupancy by students, faculty, staff, or the public. Dr. Gillette set a working group in September 2023 to develop a plan by December 1, 2023, to elevate University Housing as a revenue driver while providing a great space for students and housing for employees, which will help in employee recruitment and retention. The working group is chaired by Anya Alexander and includes Dr. Gillette, Steve Johnson, Joshua Stanhope, Jerry Killips, Morrie Walworth, and Michael Beazley.

**Background:**

As reported in the September 2023 report, the working group has the following among its goals:

1. Determine the overall capacity and individual building capacity.
2. Select housing units that may be unfilled by students to be available for non-students.
3. Ensure variety of housing accommodations for married students, students with children, employees, people in the community, and visitors to Sault Sainte Marie.
4. Determine where to partition buildings for security and privacy of students.
5. Audit local rental market rates to set price points per unit type and to maximize revenue.
6. Achieve maximum capacity throughout the academic year and during summer months.
7. Explore use of University Housing for Air B&B/ VRBO accommodations.

**Capacity**

A full review of the Housing inventory, maximum occupancy is seen below:

<u>Hall</u>	<u># of beds</u>	<u>Hall</u>	<u># of beds</u>
Brady Hall	193	Laker Hall	13
Brown Hall	18	Moloney Hall	67
Cambium Analytica	20	Neveu Hall	39
Chippewa Hall	21	Ontario Hall	22
Easterday House	14	Osborn Hall	175/55
Hillside House	18	Student Village	284
Huron Hall	22	Townhouse	147
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,108</b>	

Current occupancy in the residence halls is 610, which is 55%. In light of the data above, the working group is making plans to take advantage of the unused capacity. Below are three initiatives under review by the working group.

### ***On-Campus Greek Community***

The commitment to revitalize on-campus Greek community continues to receive attention. We conducted a full review of past and present fraternities and sororities at LSSU. We are identifying regional or national organizations that may be interested in establishing an LSSU presence. This audit helps us to be purposeful about encouraging students interested in Greek life while learning more about recruitment, retention, and the effects of different organizations.

We believe that Greek Housing plays a role in building a close-knit Greek community. Residence Life & Housing committed to restore on-campus Greek Housing by Fall 2024. We expect at least one sorority in a Row House but may have two sororities in the house.

### ***Living Learning Communities***

We are evaluating how to maximize occupancy of the Row Houses and participation in the Living-Learning Communities (LLCs) that occupy them. The room selection process in Spring 2024 may begin a rotation process driven by an organization or department's ability to fill a house on the Row. By rotating the LLCs we will have the opportunity provide residential students with the communities they seek, relocate current communities into spaces that better fit their occupancy, and make necessary upgrades and complete necessary upkeep to the buildings. Among other considerations for the Row House are a Multicultural House and a First-Generation House. Both are still in planning stages, though slated for Fall 2024.

### ***MyMichigan Health & Additional Opportunities***

MyMichigan Health is leasing a unit in the Student Village. The unit will be used by medical students working at the hospital as part of their internship or residency programs. Apartment units and rooms have also been leased by incoming LSSU employees. Lengths of leases can vary, but the rental process is more structured with updated contract language.

Knowing that Sault Sainte Marie is a year-round tourist destination, we are solidifying a process for short-term rentals for alumni, guests, and community members. This model will mirror AirBnB, but will be managed internally to maintain the locus of control with the university.

### **Suggested Action/Motion:**

N/A

### **President's Recommendation:**

N/A

## **Student Affairs Report**

**November 17, 2023**

### **Agenda Item #4: Contributions to the Strategic Plan**

Information

Action

Discussion

#### **Purpose:**

The Strategic Plan, *Superior Education, Superior Experience, Superior You*, provides a roadmap for LSSU for the next five years. This section highlights progress made on strategic initiatives within the Division of Student Affairs.

#### **Strategic Initiative Updates:**

*1.4.1 Provide professional development to faculty and staff to assist them in keeping current in their respective fields, development of student learning-centered pedagogy, and development in all academic endeavors.*

Laker Success & University Housing Staff members have all become members of – and are taking advantage of training through – professional organizations related to their respective roles.

1. Anya Alexander, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, is a member of NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) and GLACUHO (Great Lakes Association of College & University Housing Officers).
2. Ana Robbins, Laker Success Coordinator, is a member of NASPA.
3. Joshua Stanhope, Director of Housing & Residence Life, is a member of GLACUHO and AFA (Association of Fraternity/ Sorority Advisors).
4. Residence Hall Coordinators, Kathryn Evans and Leonard Erickson, are members of GLACUHO and engaged in Knowledge Communities related to their areas of supervision.
5. Chris McLay, Housing & Residence Life Administrative Assistant, is a member of the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) to support her role as Advisor for University Activities Board.
6. Andrea Ardoin, the Student Affairs Office Coordinator, is a member of the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities for her role in general support of student clubs and organizations.

*2.1.7 Identify and achieve campus-wide diversity recognition from external organizations that highlight success in working with diverse student groups (e.g., Veteran-Friendly School Gold Level by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency).*

The Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency recognized LSSU for the third consecutive year with Gold Level status as Veteran-Friendly School. This recognition is underscored by the US News & World Report ranking of *#1 in Best Colleges for Veterans*.

*2.2.2 Enhance the physical and technological infrastructure that provides accessibility for all university members.*

Laker Success continues to upgrade the Student Engagement Center to make the location more accessible for all students. A section of the space is now equipped with a gaming system, children's toys and furniture, and a reading area with children's books. This space was created to accommodate parents who regularly bring their young children with them to campus events or tutoring sessions.

*2.3.6 Increase grant support to benefit students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.*

The Laker Success program received a new six-year grant through the State of Michigan King-Chavez-Parks program totaling \$616,776. Each year, the program receives \$102,796. This is the second time in as many attempts that LSSU Student Affairs received this grant.

*3.2.7 Increase revenue from major auxiliary units of the University (e.g., housing, health services, food services, Cisler Center), including construction of a new residence hall.*

The Michigan Liquor Control Commission voted to approve the permanent Class C liquor license for the Norris Center in late November. The permanent license will allow sale of alcohol at all sporting events along with other events held in the Center.

**Suggested Action/Motion:**

N/A

**President's Recommendation:**

N/A