



**Academic Affairs Report**  
November 17, 2023

**Agenda Item #1: Academic Affairs Dashboard**

Information

Action

Discussion

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this information is to provide key statistics related to Academic Affairs.

**Background:**

N/A

**Suggested Action/Motion:**

N/A

**President's Recommendation:**

N/A

## Academic Affairs Dashboard

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Current Status/ Trends	Notes
Bachelor Degrees Conferred	478	397	398	423	383	399	359	314	297	Not yet available	↓	Source: Registrar
Associate Degrees Conferred	214	174	157	184	122	163	139	145	145	Not yet available	↔	Source: Registrar
Certificates Conferred	22	20	11	2	2	11	18	17	11	Not yet available	↓	Source: Registrar
Bachelor's Degree Graduation Rate: 4 yr/6 yr Cohort:	16%/39% 2006	17%/42% 2007	18%/43% 2008	17%/40% 2009	21%/42% 2010	30%/46% 2011	27%/53% 2012	30%/48% 2013	31%/50% 2014	Not yet available	↑	Source: IPEDS Data Feedback Report - Bachelor's degree graduation rates of full-time, first-time degree/certificate seeking undergraduates within 4 yrs. & 6 yrs.
Cost of Attendance (tuition and fees)	\$10,248	\$10,517	\$11,019	\$11,427	\$11,895	\$12,255	\$12,744	\$13,200	\$13,968	Not yet available	↑	Source: IPEDS Data Feedback Report
Total Cost of Attendance (tuition, fees, books & supplies, room & board)	\$19,968	\$20,860	\$21,865	\$23,721	\$24,477	\$25,535	\$26,266	\$27,656	\$27,694	Not yet available	↑	Source: IPEDS Data Feedback Report
Average Cost of Attendance After Financial Aid	\$9,941	\$11,030	\$12,220	\$11,272	\$12,310	\$13,568	\$13,583	\$14,336	Not yet available	Not yet available	↑	Source: IPEDS Data Feedback Report
Cohort Default Rate (3-yr.)	6.1%	5.2%	6.3%	5.9%	1.3%	0.0%	not yet available	not yet available	not yet available	Not yet available	↓	Source: Dept. of Education
First Year Retention Rate	70.00%	72.00%	67.00%	77.00%	71.00%	73.00%	67.00%	73.00%	69.11%	Not yet available	↓	Source: IPEDS Data Feedback Report Student Affairs
Study Abroad	16	27	41	17	27	1	0	0	9	Not yet available	↑	Source: Study Abroad Office
% Students Living on Campus	42%	45%	44%	44%	47%	48%	45%	47%	43%	Not yet available	↓	Source: Institutional Research/Common Data Set
Honors Degree Students Graduating	6	7	2	3	3	5	2	1	1	Not yet available	↔	Source: Registrar
% Full-time Faculty with Terminal Degree	57%	61%	65%	68%	67%	59%	68%	68%	70%	71%	↑	Source: Provost Office
Student to Faculty Ratio	16:1	15:1	16:1	17:1	16:1	14:1	17:1	16:1	13:1	Not yet available	↓	Source: Institutional Research/Common Data Set
# Instructional Staff (FT/PT)	108/74	109/64	99/59	97/54	93/55	98/56	91/57	93/70	87/46	84/62	↓	Source: Provost Office
Research Expenditures	\$766,524	\$716,397	\$498,824	\$428,783	\$662,407	\$669,364	\$936,301	\$1,754,985	Not yet available	Not yet available	↑	Source: LSSU annual financial reports
Higher Learning Commission (HLC)	Good standing	Good standing	Reaffirmed	Good standing	Good standing	Good standing	Good standing	Good standing	Good standing	Good Standing	↔	Four-year comprehensive review in AY 2020-2021. Next reaffirmation of accreditation in 2026-27.



**Academic Affairs Report**  
**November 17, 2023**

**Agenda Item #2: Cybersecurity - BS**

Information

Action

Discussion

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this action item is approve the Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity.

**Background:**

The purpose of this action item is to provide an overview of the Bachelor of Science of Cybersecurity.

1. On October 5, the Curriculum Committee approved a Bachelor of Science degree in Cybersecurity to begin in fall 2024.
2. The Bachelor of Science Cybersecurity degree is a unique and specialized degree. The degree combines the required knowledge and practical skills of the fields of Criminal Justice and Computer Science. Combined, the degree prepares students for a future career as a cybersecurity professional.
3. The problem we are solving includes:
  - a. Creating a degree program that combines computer science and criminal justice courses needed for the interdisciplinary field of cybersecurity.
4. This Bachelor of Science Cybersecurity degree will:
  - a. Prepare students for a growing professional field that protects people and property from unauthorized access or modification.
  - b. Increase enrollment by appealing to students interested in careers in information security.
  - c. Meet demand for a growing 10-year outlook on careers in cybersecurity. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects growth of 35% from 2021 to 2031.
  - d. Train graduates to build, maintain, and protect systems, networks, programs, and people from cyber-attacks and intrusions.
  - e. Provide focus on administration, design, integration, policy, protection, and recovery from all types of cyberattacks to modern information systems.

5. The Bachelor of Science Cybersecurity degree will seek out accreditation:
  - a. The degree will be accredited by the National Security Agency's National Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity.
  - b. The process requires educational components in Foundational Knowledge Units, Technical Core Knowledge Units, and Non-Technical Core Knowledge Units with Optional Knowledge Units.
  - c. Accreditation cannot be achieved until after the program has been in place for 3 years and is able to show student achievement and program success.
  - d. The program will seek both Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) and Cyber Operations (CAE-CO) accreditation.
6. There are four new courses with this program: CJUS323-Cybersecurity Laws and Compliance, CJUS333-Cybercrime and Information Warfare, CJUS343-Digital Forensics, and CJUS413-Policy Development in Information Assurance. These are junior and senior level courses, allowing sufficient time to build enrollment before they are offered.
7. We have sufficient expertise in existing faculty.

**Suggested Action/Motion:**

The President recommends to the Board of Trustees approval of the Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity.

**President's Recommendation:**

Approval of the Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity.



**College of Criminal Justice and Emergency Responders  
BS-Cybersecurity**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Audit Year 2024

Month/Yr Grad: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

College/School Chair Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>General Education</b>	<b>34-39 cr</b>	<b>Departmental Core Requirements</b>	<b>91-93</b>
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Courses	Cr.	Sem/Yr	Grade	Courses	Cr.	Sem/Yr	Grade
<b>Oral &amp; Written Communication 9 cr min.</b>				<b>Criminal Justice Core 44</b>			
ENGL 110 Fr Comp I	3	_____	_____	CJUS 101 Intro to CJ	3	_____	_____
ENGL 111 Fr Comp II	3	_____	_____	CJUS 203 Cyberterrorism	3	_____	_____
Communications GenEd	3	_____	_____	CJUS 243 Investigation	3	_____	_____
<b>Mathematics 3 cr min</b>				CJUS 303 Crit Infra Prot	3	_____	_____
MATH 110 or Higher	3	_____	_____	CJUS 306 Sec Syst Info	3	_____	_____
<b>Humanities/Arts/Phil 6 cr min</b>				CJUS 319 Sub Crim Law	3	_____	_____
_____	3-4	_____	_____	CJUS 321 Ethics	3	_____	_____
_____	3-4	_____	_____	CJUS 323 Cyber Laws	3	_____	_____
<b>Natural Science 7 cr min</b>				CJUS 333 Cyber Info War	3	_____	_____
_____	4	_____	_____	CJUS 343 Digital Forensic	3	_____	_____
_____	3-4	_____	_____	CJUS 345 Stats & Design	4	_____	_____
<b>Social Science 6 cr min</b>				CJUS 399 Seminar IV	1	_____	_____
_____	3-4	_____	_____	CJUS 401 Senior Seminar	3	_____	_____
_____	3-4	_____	_____	CJUS 409 Proc. Laws	3	_____	_____
<b>Cultural Diversity 3 cr min</b>				CJUS 413 Pol Dev in IA	3	_____	_____
_____	3	_____	_____	<b>Computer Science Core 41</b>			
_____ At Least 124 total credits				CSCI 103 Suv Comp Sci	3	_____	_____
_____ 2.0 Overall GPA min.				CSCI 105 Int Comp Prog	3	_____	_____
_____ 2.0 Overall GPA in Core Req				CSCI 106 Web Page Des	3	_____	_____
_____ 50% of Major 300/400 Classes at LSSU				CSCI 121 Prin Program	4	_____	_____
_____ Residency 30 credits LSSU				CSCI 211 Databases App	4	_____	_____
				CSCI 221 Comp Net	3	_____	_____
				CSCI 248 Net Op Sys I	3	_____	_____
				CSCI 263 Mng Comp Sec	3	_____	_____
				CSCI 281 Into UNIX	3	_____	_____
				CSCI 327 Web App Des	3	_____	_____
				CSCI 348 Net Op Sys II	3	_____	_____
				CSCI 412 UNIX Net Ad	3	_____	_____
				CSCI 422 Net Comp Sec	3	_____	_____
				<b>Capstone Project</b>			
				CJUS 402 Internship	6	_____	_____
				OR			
				CSCI 418 Sen Proj I	4	_____	_____
				CSCI 419 Sen Proj II	4	_____	_____

Recommended Schedule for Bachelor of Science Degree  
Cybersecurity

<p><b>First Year Fall 2023</b>            CJUS 101 Intro to CJ (3)            CSCI 103 Suv Comp Sci (3)            CSCI 105 Int Comp Prog (3)            ENGL 110 First Year Composition I (3) Gen Ed            MATH 110 Explorations of Math (3) Gen Ed</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15 Credits</p>	<p><b>First Year Spring 2024</b>            CJUS 243 Investigations (3)            CCSI 121 Prin Program (4)            CSCI 221 Comp Network (3)            ENGL 111 First year Composition II (3) Gen Ed            PSYC 101 Intro to Psychology (3) Gen Ed</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16 Credits</p>
<p><b>Second Year Fall 2024</b>            CJUS 203 Cybercrimes (3)            CSCI 106 Web Dev (3)            CSCI 211 Data Bases (4)            HUMN/ARTS/PHIL Gen Ed (3-4)            Cultural Diversity (3) Gen Ed</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16-17 Credits</p>	<p><b>Second Year Spring 2025</b>            CJUS 243 Investigations (3)            CSCI 281 Intro UNIX (3)            HUMN/ARTS/PHIL Gen Ed (3-4)            COMM 101 Fundamentals of Speech (3) Gen Ed            CJUS 323 Cyber Info Warfare (3)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15-16 Credits</p>
<p><b>Third Year Fall 2025</b>            CJUS 321 Ethics for Public Safety (3)            CJUS 345 Criminal Justice Statistics (4)            CJUS 399 Sem IV (1)            *CSCI 248 or CSCI 412 (3)            CSCI 263 Mgn Comp Sec (3)            Natural Science Gen Ed (3)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17 Credits</p>	<p><b>Third Year Spring 2026</b>            CJUS 303 Critical Infrastructure Protect (3)            CJUS 343 Digital Forensics (3)            Social Science (3) Gen Ed            *CSCI 348 or CSCI 422 (3)            Natural Science Gen Ed with Lab (4)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16 Credits</p>
<p><b>Fourth Year Fall 2026</b>            CJUS 306 Sec Systems IA (3)            CJUS 319 Substantive Law (3)            CJUS 333 Laws and Risk (3)            CJUS 401 Senior Seminar (3)            *CSCI 248 or CSCI 412 (3)            CSCI 418 (4) or CJUS 402 (3)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18-19 Credits</p>	<p><b>Fourth Year Spring 2027</b>            CJUS 409 Procedural Law (3)            CJUS 413 Pol Dev in IA (3)            CSCI 327 Web App Design (3)            *CSCI 348 or CSCI 422 (3)            CSCI 419 (4) of CJUS 402 (3)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15-16 Credits</p>

**Note:** CJUS 402 Senior Internship may be taken in the Summer between third and fourth year or the Fall and Spring of the fourth year. Must complete an application and be approved by instructor prior to the semester.

Note: CSCI 248 and CSCI 348 are currently only offered alternate years. Students should consult their advisor and/or the CSCI offering pattern to determine which year they should plan to take it.



## Academic Affairs Report November 17, 2023

### Agenda Item #3: Sabbatical Applications

Information

Action

Discussion

#### Purpose:

The purpose of this action is to approve two semesters of sabbatical leave for Dr. Derek Wright and one semester of sabbatical leave for Dr. Britt Ranson Olson for the 2024-2025 academic year.

#### Background:

1. The sabbatical approval process is prescribed in the contract between the faculty union and LSSU.
  - a. A Sabbatical Leave Committee, comprised of two Deans appointed by the Provost, and seven faculty members (one from each college and one at large member) elected by the faculty shall consider the applications for sabbatical leave and make recommendations to the Provost.
2. Two faculty members applied for a sabbatical leave for the 2024-2025 academic year. Dr. Derek Wright, Professor of Environmental Science, requested a one-year sabbatical, and Dr. Britt Ranson Olson, Professor of Biology, requested a one-year sabbatical.
3. The Sabbatical Leave Committee recommended approval of a one-year sabbatical for Dr. Wright and a one-semester sabbatical for Dr. Ranson Olson.
4. Sabbatical Abstracts
  - a. Dr. Derek Wright's Abstract

Lake Superior State University faculty and collaborators have recently received two awards from the National Science Foundation to acquire major research instrumentation for microanalysis and chemical imaging to support research across the scientific disciplines. As facility coordinator of the newly established Micro Analysis and Spectroscopic Characterization (MASC) laboratory, which will house the awarded instrumentations, Dr. Wright will develop the analytical imaging methods necessary to complete the proposed research, as well as advance his own research interests in bioaccumulation of metals, correlative chemical imaging of geological materials, and elemental characterization of atmospheric particulate matter and cannabis rolling papers. Additionally, the proposed activities will 1) both advance knowledge in these disciplines and facilitate dissemination of scientific results, 2) directly benefit Dr. Wright's teaching through engaging in scholarship and through the further

development of technical proficiency, and 3) will enable the development and application of K-12 educational/outreach materials.

b. Dr. Britt Ranson Olson's Abstract

Dr. Ranson Olson will advance her knowledge and skills in advanced genomic applications and use these skills to evaluate a number of emerging issues. The projects are relevant to our region and they will give LSSU students access to working with the most modern molecular tools. The proposal includes various applications such as the effect of environmental contaminants on microbial diversity, bioremediation studies, the detection of invasive species, and the development of a molecular assay for sex determination of sturgeon. The outcomes of this proposal include travel to several Institutions to learn from experts on these rapidly advancing methods, with the goal of making them accessible to our LSSU campus community. The projects are well suited for multiple senior thesis projects and for demonstrating biological outcomes in LSSU courses and laboratories, resulting in on-going and future prospects of molecular based research at LSSU.

**Suggested Action/Motion:**

The President recommends to the Board of Trustees approval of two semesters of sabbatical leave for Dr. Derek Wright and one semester of sabbatical leave for Dr. Britt Ranson Olson for the 2024-2025 academic year.

**President's Recommendation:**

Approval of two semesters of sabbatical leave for Dr. Derek Wright and one semester of sabbatical leave for Dr. Britt Ranson Olson for the 2024-2025 academic year.





## Academic Affairs Report November 17, 2023

### Agenda Item #4: Marketing Update

Information

Action

Discussion

#### Purpose:

The purpose of this informational item is to provide an update on the Marketing Department.

#### Background:

#### Staffing

1. Sheridan Worth—Director of Marketing

Ms. Worth joined LSSU on August 21, 2023 as a Social Media Specialist. She served as the Digital Media Specialist at SooToday, Village Media, Inc., in Sault Ste. Marie, ON. She has an Honours Bachelor's degree in Communications and Media Studies from Carleton University. She was promoted to the position of Director of Marketing on November 6, 2023. Ms. Worth reports directly to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, leads our marketing department, continues to serve as social media specialist, supervises staff and students, and coordinates and assists in event coverage.

2. Shelby Mackie—Digital Content Specialist

Ms. Mackie has a Bachelor of Applied Arts, Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Studies from Central Michigan University. She joined LSSU in 2022 as a Campus Visit and Outreach Coordinator in Admissions, where she gained experience in web content services. She transferred to her current role on August 1, 2023. Ms. Mackie assists with web content updates and creation, event photography, and serves as a liaison to Gotcha Mobi, our web services contractor.

3. Deb Cook—Graphics Designer (part-time)

Ms. Cook retired in June after 29 years at LSSU. She returned part-time to LSSU in late September to assist with our graphic design needs.

## Initiatives

On August 31, 2023, marketing was transferred under the umbrella of Academic Affairs. Below are some of the initiatives and activities of the department.

1. A campus-wide Google calendar of events was created in order to provide more awareness of events, reduce time conflicts, and plan marketing coverage. The Events Calendar on the LSSU home page has been reinstated and contains a link to the Athletics Calendar.
2. The “Campus News” tab was reinstated in the “About” section of the LSSU website, with links to the most recent releases on the home page.
3. Website improvements and maintenance efforts have increased, making the website more stable.

Ms. Mackie’s work on the website includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Regular meetings with Gotcha Mobi, our web vendor, to complete repairs and troubleshoot.
  - b. Work with Zach Norman in IT to backup existing webpages, delete unused web environments (many of which were causing security issues), install a Smart Plugin Manager, and update plugins for which the manager is not compatible.
  - c. Update structure to reflect new academic structure.
  - d. Work with Schools and departments to update content.
  - e. Draft pages for the Master’s of Business Administration program, to go live pending approval by the Higher Learning Commission.
  - f. Access website analytics.
4. Improvements have also been made in the social media strategy and some past high-yield activities have continued. Ms. Worth’s work in social media includes, but is not limited to:
    - a. Increased posts related to academic programs with an emphasis on applied learning activities.
    - b. Increased re-shares of posts from other areas of campus to promote their activities and increase visibility for their pages, such as athletics, Barch CFRE, academic departments, the Alumni Association, the Native American Center, LakerCast videos, and Campus Life, among others.
    - c. Increased highlights of student and alumni successes. Two examples include a highlight of our [alumni successes](#) in medical school through the Early Assurance Program with Michigan State University and our student spotlight on [Nyla Rechtzygiel](#).
    - d. Increase awareness of events or observances on campus such as our observance of [Indigenous Peoples’ Day](#).
    - e. Celebrate the Laker experience such as Lakerpalooza, the northern lights, music, art, and Campus Life.

- f. Increase awareness of faculty and staff achievements.
  - g. Continue Throwback Thursday.
  - h. Continue Trivia Tuesday and Swag Giveaways on Instagram.
  - i. Monitor social media analytics.
5. A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been released for a redesign of the campus website.
  6. Badges for the U.S. News and World Reports rankings were purchased for use on social media, news, print, and video.
  7. Ms. Worth and Ms. Mackie meet with faculty and staff to understand departments' marketing goals and strategies. They are also working together to mentor others on social analytics and page navigation. They are working on a social media guide for faculty and staff who create content for their pages.
  8. Instagram has been revamped to include highlights of each department, athletics, student life, questions and answers, and LSSU information. This is a great resource for current students or student prospects to get a glimpse of each department, campus life, etc. We will continue to add to these as we post more stories.
  9. Ms. Worth, Ms. Mackie, and our student workers have increased our marketing presence at events for photos, videos, and promotion. Some of the recent events are Orange Shirt Day, Indigenous Peoples' Day, the press conference for Tory Lindley, the Fall Career Fair, GLSW, and many more events.

## **Results**

1. We have increased followers on Facebook (by 191), X (by 7), and Instagram (by 113).
2. Social media posts have more than doubled to 114 posts during a 60-day period from 54 during an equivalent time period in 2022.
3. The reach is up on all three platforms with Facebook having the highest increase of 178.2%.
4. The top post for September and October was the U.S. News & World Report's number one ranking for LSSU.
  - a. [Lake Superior State University has achieved the top spot in the 2024 U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges rankings for Regional Colleges in the U.S.](#)
  - b. This post on Facebook reached 169,584 people, provided 10,743 of engagements, and 4,735 people reacted.

## **Recent Press Releases**

[Three Alumni To Be Recognized During Great Lake State Weekend 2023](#)

[Lake Superior State University Hall Of Fame 2023 Inductees](#)

[Lake Superior State University Earns Top Ranking In 2024 Best Colleges By U.S. News & World Report](#)

[Lake Superior State University Earns ABET Re-Accreditation For Engineering Technology Programs](#)

[Lake Superior State University Names Tory R. Lindley As Its New Athletic Director](#)

[Chairman Austin Lowes Speaks To The Lake Superior State University Community In Commemoration Of Indigenous Peoples' Day](#)

[Lake Superior State University Is Honored To Welcome Angeline Bouley To Campus On October 30, 2023 At 7 PM](#)

[LSSU Student And US Coast Guard Reservist Receives 2023-24 Amy Ignatowski Memorial Award](#)

[Alumnus Creates First Of Its Kind Endowment At LSSU In Support Of Geology Student Research](#)

[Michigan Charter Boat Association \(MCBA\) Establishes Endowed Scholarship for LSSU Fisheries Students](#)

[Celebrating Indigenous Culture and Heritage: Lake Superior State University's Native American Center Announces Winner of Logo Competition](#)

## **Suggested Action/Motion:**

None

## **President's Recommendation:**

N/A



## Academic Affairs Report November 17, 2023

### Agenda Item #5: Academic Affairs Update

Information

Action

Discussion

### Purpose:

The purpose of this information is to provide an update on progress in the area of Academic Affairs.

### Background:

#### Highlights from the Academic Affairs Report

1. The Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE) was awarded \$3,869,453 (CAN) in funding through the Natural Resources Canada Multi-Partner Research Initiative (MPRI) to lead three research networks of collaborative partners in the U.S. and Canada.
2. Professor Jim Devaprasad presented on October 1-5, in Detroit, Michigan at the International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) hosted by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) about “Formal Robotics Education Programs: Best Practices and Future Opportunities” with Dr. Jenelle Piepmeier from the US Naval Academy (Annapolis, Maryland) and Dr. Francois Michaud from the University of Sherbrooke (Quebec, Canada).
3. Angeline Boulley, New York Times Best Selling author of *The Firekeepers Daughter* and *Warrior Girl Unearthed*, talked about her books on Monday, October 30, at 7:00 pm in the Library Commons. Ms. Boulley is a native of Sugar Island, and a member of the Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. *The Firekeeper’s Daughter* has become “One of this year’s most buzzed about young adult novels” (Good Morning America), and has been awarded, among other accolades, A TIME Magazine Best Young Adult Book of All Time Selection, and The Goodreads Best Young Adult Fiction Award for 2021. *Warrior Girl Unearthed* has won the American Indian Youth Literature Award for Young Adult, 2021 Kids' Indie Next List Selection, Entertainment Weekly Most Anticipated Books of 2021 Selection, and PopSugar Best March 2021 YA Book Selection. Funding for this event was provided by the Issues and Intellect Fund.
4. Drs. Thu Nguyen and Derek David Wright and Professor Ben Southwell received a one-year renewal of their State of Michigan SARS-CoV-2 Epidemiology – Wastewater Evaluation and Reporting (SEWER) Network grant. The grant was funded for an additional \$769,852 through next July. The grant total now stands at \$3,272,670.

5. Together with LSSU student interns, Professor Julie Brooks Barbour, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, published the 2023 issue of *Border Crossing* on October 3. The issue features fiction, poetry, and interactive digital poetry by twelve writers.
6. Dr. H. Russell Searight recently published four articles with colleagues and LSSU alums in peer-reviewed journals on topics related to mental health services, health disparities and ethical challenges.
7. Dr. Jun Li recently published four articles in peer-reviewed journals on disease and immune pathways in aquatic organisms, including fish and shrimp.
8. During the Great Lake State Weekend, the Simulation Center conducted an open house. Nearly 100 faculty, alumni, students and senior administration attended the event. Many Nursing students and faculty participated in the event, donating their time and providing tours and directions. Similarly, the School of Engineering had a successful Alumni Social event attended by approximately 50 alumni, faculty, and students where they announced their 2023 Above and Beyond service award and their Alumni fellows awards.

**Suggested Action/Motion:**

None

**President's Recommendation:**

N/A

**Major Initiatives,  
Colleges,  
Library and Academic Services,  
Native American Center,  
Accreditation and Assessment,  
and the Office of Sponsored Programs**

## Major Initiatives

1. Prison Education Program—LSSU personnel continue to prepare for prison programming at the Chippewa and Kinross Correctional Facilities. We have not yet received approval for offering the three programs that have been submitted to the Michigan Department of Corrections. In October, we learned that the two business certificate programs might not be eligible for full Pell benefits due to new Federal Student Aid funding guidelines from the Department of Education. We will instead apply to the Michigan Department of Corrections for approval of our Associate in Small Business Administration.
2. Masters of Business Administration—The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) visited campus on October 2-3, 2023 to review our MBA program. They met with members of senior administration, faculty and students in the Lukenda School of Business, members of the LSB Professional Advisory Board, the Curriculum Committee, and IT staff. On November 1, 2023, we received notice that the review team will submit a recommendation to approve the MBA program to HLC's Institutional Actions Council. The item will be placed on their January or February agenda. We expect to know their decision within two weeks of their vote.
3. HLC Focus Visit—A two-member review team visited campus on October 23-24. They met with the Senior Management Team, the Board of Trustees, deans and department chairs, CFO Walworth, and held open forums for faculty and staff. The primary items for review were enrollment, the budget, and transparency. The exit meeting with Dr. Gillette, Dr. Muller, and Mr. Walworth was candid. We await their preliminary report and suspect that it will provide LSSU with recommendations for further improvements. After the preliminary report is received (likely by November 20, 2023). LSSU will be allowed to correct errors of fact. As with the MBA, the item will be placed on the agenda for HLC's Institutional Actions Council in January or February.
4. Reorganization—Interim Provost Muller held listening sessions for academic divisions across campus to better understand issues related to reorganization and marketing. She will submit drafts of possible reorganizations in November based upon the sessions, moving from six colleges to four. This will be followed by an opportunity for faculty and staff to submit feedback before a reorganization plan is finalized. In the meantime, temporary signing authority for Dean Wenger's former colleges and divisions has been distributed among the existing deans. Dean Wenger took a position with the US Department of Education. Her final day at LSSU was November 4, 2023.
5. College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education—This initiative is building momentum quickly with numerous activities focused on each of the pillars of the Strategic Plan. The faculty and staff in the college meet regularly to develop strategies to meet their enrollment goals. They have implemented many events (applied learning and some purely for fun) to build a sense of belonging among faculty, staff, and students. They are also engaged in recruitment through an increased social media presence, high school visits, community events, and Career Technical programming. See the college update for more details.
6. Excellence in Advising Award—In October, a committee made up of three past winners of the Excellence in Advising Award, which has not been awarded since 2020, met to review the nomination and selection process. They recommended changes to the nomination form. The call for nominations went out on October 27, 2023. This year's awardee will be announced at the next awards and recognition banquet.
7. Capital Outlay—LSSU submitted an application to the State of Michigan for a capital outlay project (\$38.6 million) that, if approved, will build an additional wing to the Center for Applied Science and



Engineering Technology building and remodel the existing structure. CASET currently houses the School of Engineering and Technology, the School of Computer Science and Mathematics, and also houses fire science and emergency services faculty and classrooms. The new addition will allow Criminal Justice to join the rest of the School of Criminal Justice, Fire Science, and Emergency Services in CASET and provide enhanced learning environments for applied learning activities, senior projects and robotics. The remaining structure will receive substantial improvements to further support all three Schools.

8. Healthcare Consortium—LSSU, Bay Mills Community College, MyMichigan Sault, and the Sault Area High School Allied Health program are in the process of developing a consortium to provide clearer pathways for entry into careers in the medical field. The consortium will allow for internships, aid, and support for many career levels from medical assistants to our bachelor's program in nursing with the objective of increasing enrollment and preparing more healthcare providers for our region.

## **College of Innovation and Solutions**

### **Internship**

1. Five of the Cannabis Business students in CBUS 305: Business of Cannabis Cultivation and Distribution are currently working in cultivation and retail facilities within the cannabis industry.

### **Student Accomplishments**

1. Emily Anderson, Lukenda School of Business Senior, has secured a position with Walmart as a Senior Analyst II for after graduation.
2. The placement rate for School of Engineering and Technology and the School of Computer Science and Mathematics graduates from the 2022 graduate placement survey was 100%. The placement rate for the Lukenda School of Business was 95.2%. The median salaries were \$70,000, \$67,000, and \$51,000, respectively.

### **Conferences and Presentations**

1. Dr. Haluk Kucuk from the School of Engineering and Technology is serving as a Technical Committee Member for the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Machine Vision to be held in Yerevan, Armenia on November 15-18, 2023.
2. Professor Jim Devaprasad from the School of Engineering and Technology presented on October 1-5, in Detroit, Michigan at the International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) hosted by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) about “Formal Robotics Education Programs: Best Practices and Future Opportunities” with Dr. Jenelle Piepmeier from the US Naval Academy (Annapolis, Maryland) and Dr. Francois Michaud from the University of Sherbrooke (Quebec, Canada). Their insight about the design and implementation of bachelor’s degree programs in Robotics Engineering covered curriculum, enrollment, faculty expertise, capstone design, labs, and more.
3. Dr. Christopher Smith from the School of Computer Science and Mathematics attended the IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems in Detroit, Michigan Oct 1-4. He is also served as a keynote speaker for the UPEDA Meeting on October 27.
4. Dr. Edoardo Sarda from the School of Engineering and Technology attended the Smart Ships Coalition workshop on September 20-22, along with five LSSU students serving as student ambassadors.

### **Publications**

1. Dr. Haluk Kucuk published the following peer reviewed journal article: O Yurtsever, H Kucuk, 2023, “Design, Production and Vision Based Analysis of a Wireless Operated 2-DOF SMA Driven Soft Robotic Arm,” Materials Today Communications 34,105,176.

### **Awards**

1. The School of Engineering and Technology had a successful Great Lakes State Weekend Alumni Social event attended by approximately 50 alumni, faculty, and students where we gave the 2023 Above & Beyond Service Award to Mr. Robert Magee, Executive Director for Engineering Society of

Detroit, for his work with the Engineering House and the student chapter of the Engineering Society of Detroit. The 2023 Alumni Fellow Awards were given to LSSU Alums Corey Ryan, Phil Peloso, and Ron Bergamin for their contributions to the field of robotics and automation.

### **Advisory Board**

1. The School of Engineering and Technology had another successful Industrial Advisory Board meeting with approximately 15 professionals from industry -- many of them SET alumni -- providing insights and guidance for their programs, ensuring the skills and knowledge of our graduates align well with the needs of industry. The IAB is also interested in helping promote SET/LSSU at FIRST Robotics events this year.
2. The Professional Advisory Board for the Lukenda School of Business met on October 13. The board members discussed a range of issues to provide assistance and make recommendations to the School of Business faculty related to curriculum development, student internship opportunities, and experiential education opportunities.

### **Recruitment and Outreach**

1. Articulation agreements for all seven engineering programs were signed with Bay College. LSSU hosted the STEM club from Bay College on November 3.
2. Dr. Edoardo Sarda presented about our engineering programs at Sault Area High School on October 20 and brought one LSSU student to serve as ambassador.
3. Dr. Edoardo Sarda travelled to Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) on September 20, to present about our engineering programs and our recently established articulation agreement through an in-class presentation, involving five current LSSU students.

### **Community Engagement**

1. Cannabis Studies Club hosted two free yoga classes to the LSSU campus in October that were well attended in addition to running a successful bake sale. The club has also diligently coordinated with Dr. Johnson on a plan to send club shirts to industry influencers to help promote the cannabis programs.

**College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education**  
**Richard and Theresa Barch Center for Freshwater Research and Education**

**Outreach, Service, and Operations**

1. Student employee and volunteer experiences have kicked into high gear at the CFRE Fish Hatchery and the Great Lakes Discovery Center, with the onboarding of 16 undergraduate volunteers and 13 student employees who will gain weekly experience at the hatchery, the Discovery Center, and on research.



*Abby Schrader, a junior in the Fisheries and Wildlife Management program, is one of over 30 students who is gaining experience collecting salmon for next year's class at the CFRE fish hatchery.*

2. CFRE Outreach and Education staff hosted 144 secondary students from JKL Bahweting and Brimley schools for school programs during this reporting period.
  - a. JKL's visit is a continuation of previous years and includes an overview of careers in Natural Resources and an engineering challenge. LSSU undergraduate ambassador, Collin Mahaffey (Fisheries and Wildlife major), supported the programs.
  - b. Brimley's 7<sup>th</sup> grade math class also is a returning class working with CFRE. Students participated in biodiversity surveys and compared diversity metrics across ecosystems.
3. The College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education held a college-wide meet and greet for students in the new college. Over 45 students participated in games and a potluck held at the Barch CFRE building.
4. Fisheries and Wildlife Club, under the College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education, has been very active this fall and created opportunities to engage students nearly every weekend to date, including a Tree and Wildlife ID workshop, led by Dr. Jon Doubek, local hikes, and fish sampling in a local pond. They are also hosting their annual Whitefish Dinner fundraiser this month.
5. CFRE hosted its first ambassador event to recruit students and connect them to CFRE and the College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education. Approximately 30 students and staff participated in a pumpkin decorating event held in the Barch building.
6. CFRE hosted a Labor Day Extravaganza at the Richard and Theresa Barch CFRE building on September 2, to welcome students back to campus with yard games, a movie, and food.

7. Approximately 20 LSSU undergraduate students from NRES 199-Freshman Seminar toured the Richard and Theresa Barch CFRE building guided by CFRE research technician Simon Freeman (LSSU alumnus, 2022) who focused on CFRE research initiatives, and Beth Christiansen and Kirsten Hindy, focusing on CFRE education and outreach initiatives at the Dr. Constance Baker Great Lakes Discovery Center.
8. Twenty-three LSSU teacher education students from TEAC 101-Becoming a Teacher experienced nature and place-based learning guided by Beth Christiansen and Kirsten Hindy with assistance from LSSU freshman McKinsley McCardell (Fisheries and Wildlife).
9. We broke ground on CFRE's new storage building this month and the steel frame is expected to be delivered by the end of November and the structure should be completed by the end of the year. The storage building is funded by external funds acquired by CFRE.
10. Physical Plant, Cloverland Electric, and CFRE Fish Hatchery staff have been busy conducting maintenance and upgrades at the hatchery, including replacing inlet screens on our main water supply, installing a new pump and plumbing for our filtered water supply, and preparing for winter. These efforts will ensure smooth operation of the CFRE Fish Hatchery.
11. CFRE recently hired Dr. Bo Liu as a research scientist. Dr. Liu will be focusing on the MPRI oil spill research when he begins later this year. Search committees are working diligently to fill important positions in College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education, including Associate Dean, Special Projects and Development Coordinator, and two tenure track faculty in School of Natural Resources (Forestry Conservation, Wildlife Management).
12. CFRE hosted numerous tours this reporting period, including former Board of Trustees chair, Ann Parker, the Gleason family (Gale Gleason was one of the founders of the Aquatic Research Lab in the 1970s), high ranking officers from the US Coast Guard headquarters office, and guests from the Native American Fisheries and Wildlife Conference.
13. CFRE's Great Lakes Discovery Center continues to be open to the public on Friday's and Saturdays. Five student ambassadors interact with visitors during these times.
14. CFRE Outreach and Education staff are leading professional development for K-12 teachers on Michigan's new Environmental Education Curriculum (MEECs). CFRE partnered with Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Greenwood Foundation, Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary, and LSSU's Teacher Education program to provide training for 31 current or future teachers.



*LSSU Teacher Education students in TEAC101 investigated water turbidity as part of the new state Environmental Education curriculum training provided by CFRE staff.*

15. This year's CTE cohort has 16 students from Sault Area Schools, Brimley Area Schools, and Rudyard Area Schools.



*CTE Class group photo after our brush pile habitat field trip with Michigan United Conservation Clubs and The Nature Conservancy.*

- a. Three students are in the second year of the program. Each student was connected with a local natural resources organization for a work-based learning placement. Students have loved this on-the-job experience to gain a better understanding of what a career in natural resources looks like.
- b. CTE held a meet and greet with the CFRE team to provide an opportunity for the high school students to build stronger connections with LSSU while here.

## **Recruitment**

1. Dr. Kapuscinski (CFRE, School of Natural Resources) and Professor Becky Davis (School of Education) met with prospective students during Great Lakes State Weekend to discuss the academic experience at LSSU. CFRE had over a dozen students and their families visit the Barch CFRE building during the lab tour. In addition, faculty and staff provided 15 prospective student tours during this reporting period.
2. The School of Education participated in the State's new Talent Together program, which provides a fully-paid pathway for teacher education students across the state. This resulted in an additional 20 students this fall and approximately 10-15 more are expected for the spring.
3. The College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education team has been actively drafting articulation agreements with Career and Technical Education (CTE) high school programs and community colleges that currently draw higher numbers to School of Natural Resources and School of Education programs. We currently have two statewide CTE agreements completed and over 10 articulation agreements with community colleges in review.

## **Grants, Gifts, Awards, and Projects**

1. Dr. Robert Hildebrand and Dr. David Bauman, CFRE Affiliate faculty, were awarded \$14,400 as part of a collaborative project with Michigan Tech titled "Vital year-round measurements on the world's largest lake via cabled, under-ice observatories." The project will deploy year-round sensors in the river outside of CFRE, will provide professional development for both PIs, and will engage undergraduates in recent sensor technology.
2. Dr. Chloe Kannan in the School of Education is part of an international project around Indigenous Knowledge and combating climate change, which includes collaborators from the University of Pennsylvania, University of Michigan, and the government of India. Dr. Kannan is also engaging LSSU undergraduates interested in sustainability in this participatory research project.





*The Michigan Charter Boat Association endowed a scholarship that will support a student in Fisheries and Wildlife in College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education.*

3. A new endowment was created by the Michigan Charter Boat Association to fund a scholarship for a students interested in fisheries. The scholarship signing was held at CFRE.
4. Dr. Doubek is a co-PI on a project (total \$220,000) that is investigating under ice conditions across the Great Lakes. The project is led by Michigan Tech University and is funded by Michigan Sea Grant. The project will create opportunities for LSSU undergraduates to get involved in winter limnology research.
5. Dr. Ashley Moerke is a lead PI on a recently funded project titled “More than water under the bridge: Inventory and viability assessment of fish spawning and nursery habitats in the Straits of Mackinac.” The project was funded for \$216,000 and is a partnership with USGS and Sault Tribe. The funds will support undergraduate student research and fund CFRE technician salaries. CFRE continues to bring in external funding. This brings the total awarded to LSSU since the inception of CFRE to more than \$6.5 million.
6. Dr. Chloe Kannan is partnering with the University of Michigan and Sault Tribe to pilot an Indigenous Youth Education Collective, which is funded by the RISE Indigenous Research Grant Program. The program will help Native students in local K-12 schools to connect with their Native identities and explore pathways towards college.
7. Led by Dr. Michael Twiss, a collaborator at Algoma University, CFRE received funding from Michigan Sea Grant to install a year-round water monitoring system in the Cloverland hydroplant. The system is approximately \$30,000 and will be the first system to provide continuous data on the outflow of Lake Superior.
8. Dr. Moerke is serving on an NSF-funded diversity initiative titled “Improving diversity in professional society participation through virtual and hybrid conferencing.” Dr. Moerke represents the Society of Freshwater Science on this group.
9. Jared Christensen (Fisheries & Wildlife Management major) joined CFRE Research Technicians Shawnee McMillian and Silas Dunn on a trip to Munuscong Bay to collect European Frog-Bit for Jared’s senior thesis research project. Jared’s experiment will determine how increasing temperatures associated with climate warming affect reproduction of this invasive plant.



*Jared Christiansen, a senior in Fisheries and Wildlife Management, is conducting his thesis on an invasive plant in the St. Marys River. Jared is working on a project funded by the Michigan Department of Energy, Great Lakes, and Environment.*

### **Faculty and Staff Conferences, Presentations, and Publications**

1. Dr. Ashley Moerke participated in the Multi-Partner Research Initiative (MPRI) Advisory Board in Edmonton, Alberta, and presented on upcoming research at LSSU. MPRI is an international initiative focusing on oil spill issues in freshwater and marine systems.
2. Dr. Moerke gave a presentation to the State Public Advisory Council, which oversees Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes, on the Little Rapids Restoration project.
3. Dr. Jon Doubek gave a talk in the library's Sustainability Series titled "Full Moon Fever: Why not sampling at night should give you the shivers." The talk highlighted the collaborative research Dr. Doubek has been conducting on zooplankton populations in the Great Lakes, which has engaged numerous LSSU undergrads.
4. Katelynn Coon represented LSSU at the Northern Michigan Area Committee meeting, which brings together groups working in the area of pollution spill response and impacts.
5. Dr. Kapuscinski led a tour of CFRE for leadership members of Trout Unlimited from around the state. TU held their annual meeting at CFRE to showcase our new facility.

### **Social Media & Publicity**

1. Dr. Moerke and collaborators from the US Coast Guard's Center of Expertise participated in an all-day filming for a PBS documentary on oil spills in the Great Lakes. Filming will continue to follow research at CFRE over the next year and provide positive attention to the work faculty and students conduct here.
2. College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education launched social media sites on Instagram and Facebook, and Dr. Amanda Suzzi-Simmons has been actively recruiting students using Tik Tok. CFRE's social media activity continues to grow as well. The top post was students and faculty conducting freshwater mussel surveys in the western UP and it reached over 3,500 people on Facebook.
3. College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education activity was covered by over four media outlets this reporting period including Soo Evening News, Sault Star, Mining Journal, and UpperMichiganSource.com that covered stories on the high school CTE program hosted at CFRE and research on oil spills in freshwater.
  - a. CTE : <https://www.uppermichiganssource.com/2023/10/16/brimley-area-schools-students-build-habitats-help-hares-small-animals/>



- b. CTE: <https://www.miningjournal.net/news/front-page-news/2023/10/building-a-hospitable-habitat/>
- c. CTE: <https://www.sooeveningnews.com/story/news/education/2023/10/21/chippewa-county-students-help-build-animal-habitats/71243758007/>
- d. USCG: <https://www.sooeveningnews.com/search/?q=LSSU+expands+freshwater+oil+spill+research+with+international+allies>

## **Community**

1. CFRE hosted seven events at the Barch CFRE building during this reporting period, including Michigan Trout Unlimited’s annual meeting, the International Consortium on Oil Research, the LSSU College Fair, the Presidential Search Reception, the State Public Advisory Council annual meeting, and the UP Economic Develop Association’s annual meeting.
2. College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education hosted an “Education on Tap” event in September to provide a casual atmosphere for the School of Education faculty and staff to meet administrators from area K-12 schools. In addition, School of Education faculty and the dean have begun meeting with principals and superintendents from the region to enhance partnerships.

## **College of Science and the Environment**

### **Outreach**

1. As part of Great Lake State Weekend, Dr. Barbara Evans, Dr. Martha Hutchens, and members of the student Chemistry and Environmental Sciences Club led 12 children in science activities as part of Kids' Camp.
2. The College of Science and the Environment hosted an open house for the Micro Analysis and Spectroscopic Characterization (MASC) Lab. Over 150 student, staff, and faculty members visited on Friday, September 15, to view the newly installed JOEL scanning electron microscope. The National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation (NSF-MRI) grant-funded instrument (\$197,808) is capable of up to 300,000x magnification. The second NSF-MRI funded instrument, a Bruker M4 Tornado micro x-ray fluorescence spectrometer (\$377,160), is expected to be installed in December.

### **Awards and Grants**

1. Drs. Thu Nguyen and Derek David Wright and Professor Ben Southwell received a one-year renewal of their State of Michigan SARS-CoV-2 Epidemiology – Wastewater Evaluation and Reporting (SEWER) Network grant. The grant was funded for an additional \$769,852 through next July. The grant total now stands at \$3,272,670.

### **Conferences and Presentations**

1. Biology major Zabrina Levasseur presented her research at the Upper Peninsula Medical Laboratory Science and Molecular Diagnostics Symposium in Marquette on October 19. She presented her senior research project titled "Cortisol Levels Post Exercise in Athletes versus Non-Athletes."
2. On October 20, Dr. Martha Hutchens presented a talk titled "Immune Defenses Against Viruses" at the Upper Peninsula Medical Laboratory Science and Molecular Diagnostics Symposium in Marquette.
3. Robin Bouschor (Geology 2017), Environmental Specialist for the Sault Tribe, was a guest speaker in EVRN 215-Human Impacts on the Environment on Wednesday, October 25.
4. Dr. Nalaka Ranasinghe presented a talk titled "Indian Ocean Dynamics and Humanity" as part of the Earth Sciences Palmer Lecture Series at Kent State on October 13.
5. Nyla Rechtzygiel (Geology) presented her research at the Geological Society of America annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 17. Her work titled "Geophysical Study of the Subsurface Geometry of a Granite-Greenstone Belt in the Eastern Pilbara Craton, Western Australia" was based on her summer research with Dr. Paul Kelso in Australia.
6. Dr. Paul Kelso presented his sabbatical research at the Geological Society of America annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 18. His presentation was titled "Gravity Survey and Associated Density Models of the Warrawoona Syncline Region, Australia: A Test of Early Archean Convective Overturn."
7. Emily Perilloux and Carrie Gregg completed the Michigan State University Enrichment Summer Program at the MSU Veterinary School over summer. The Enrichment Summer Program (ESP)

provides veterinary experience focused on leadership development, academic preparation, and career knowledge for undergraduate students who have selected veterinary medicine as their career choice. Both students are majoring in biology, pre-veterinary concentration.

8. The College of Science and the Environment recently installed an Aquatic Enterprises Aquarius Zebrafish Housing System. Zebrafish are a scientific model organism for studies involving gene function, vertebrate development, immunology, environmental toxicology, and aquaculture, among many. Dr. Jun Li is currently on sabbatical leave for setting up a new zebrafish culture system to enhance the research and educational capabilities for both faculty and students at Lake Superior State University.

## **Publications**

Dr. Jun Li recently published four articles in peer-reviewed journals:

1. Minshan Yao, Hong Chen, Junjie Tao, Lixiang Wei, Ying Tang, Junyan Lin, Fei Shi, Fanbin Zhan, Yanan Li, Jun Li, Zhendong Qin, Li Lin, 2023. C-myc modulates the replication of RGNNV via glutamine-mediated ATP production in grouper fin cells. *Aquaculture and Fisheries*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aaf.2023.05.005>.
2. Lindan Sun, Feng Lin, Binbin Sun, Zhendong Qin, Keping Chen, Lijuan Zhao, Jun Li, Yulei Zhang, Li Lin, 2023. Scutellaria polysaccharide mediates the immunity and antioxidant capacity of giant freshwater prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*), *Developmental & Comparative Immunology*, Volume 143, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dci.2023.104678>.
3. Wen-Xing Li, Xiao-Hong Wang, Yi-Jun Lin, Yuan-Yuan Zhou, Jun Li, Xiang-Yang Zhang, Xin-Hua Chen. 2023. Large yellow croaker (*Larimichthys crocea*) mitofusin 2 inhibits type I IFN response by degrading MAVS via enhanced K48-linked ubiquitination. *Marine Life Science & Technology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42995-023-00189-8>.
4. Shuang Liu, Wei Wang, Tianchang Jia, Lusheng Xin, Ting-ting Xu, Chong Wang, Guosi Xie, Kun Luo, Jun Li, Jie Kong and Qingli Zhang. 2023. *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* becomes lethal to post-larvae shrimp via acquiring novel virulence factors. *Microbiology Spectrum*. [10.1128/spectrum.00492-23](https://doi.org/10.1128/spectrum.00492-23).

## College of the Liberal Arts

### Student Projects

1. On October 6 and 7, Professor Julie Brooks Barbour, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, hosted the first on-campus Student Writing Retreat. Students met in CETAL at Shouldice Library to work on senior projects, discuss their writing process, and set writing goals.

### Publications

1. Together with LSSU student interns, Professor Julie Brooks Barbour, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, published the 2023 issue of *Border Crossing* on October 3. The issue features fiction, poetry, and interactive digital poetry by twelve writers. [Border Crossing](#)

### Arts Center

1. This fall, the Arts Center began a community movie series, showing monthly films. The first and second movie nights featured *Spiderman: Across the Spiderverse* and *Nightmare Before Christmas*, respectively.
2. The Arts Center mainstage welcomed country artist Dave Fenley on October 12, as part of Great Lake State Weekend celebrations. Fenley was a top 10 contestant on *The Voice* and an *America's Got Talent* semifinalist.
3. The Arts Center welcomed the campus community to stage for "LSSU's Got Talent" on September 27 and October 25 featuring 6 student performers.

## **College of Criminal Justice and Emergency Responders**

### **Professional Service**

1. Professor Nick Vaught, Instructor of Fire Science, held a statewide Leadership and Resilience course through the Regional Firefighter Training Center on September 26. The State Fire Marshal, U.S. Coast Guard, and Sault Ontario Fire Department members were present. This was a state-sponsored event.

### **Honors and Awards**

1. Professor Nick Vaught, Instructor of Fire Science, graduated this fall from the School of Fire Staff and Command at Eastern Michigan University. School of Fire Staff and Command is designed to prepare the professional fire officer to effectively manage their fire agency.
2. Led by Professor Bryan Fuller, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, the EMS Education Program awarded eight Paramedic students \$6,500 EMS Workforce Solutions grant-funded scholarships aimed at increasing the number of paramedic candidates in Michigan EMS programs. The next EMS Workforce Solutions grant cycle will award a similar amount for up to 12 LSSU students in fall 2024.
3. Professor Scott Strait, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, completed training to become a Professional Emergency Manager (PEM) in the State of Michigan. There are less than 10 PEMs in the Upper Peninsula and just over 400 in the state.

## College of Health and Behavior

### Outreach

1. During the GLSW, the Simulation Center conducted an open house. Nearly 100 faculty, alumni, students and senior administration attended the event. Gaumard Company, a mannequin developer, provided the newest simulators for demonstration. The Simulation Director Jerry Azevedo, Dean Kathy Berchem, many Nursing students, and faculty participated in the event, donating their time and providing tours and directions.

### Scholarship

1. Dr. Eric Statt (Kinesiology) served as an external reviewer for the tenure and promotion of a professor at UMN-Crookston. This type of peer-level collaboration with similar institutions opens opportunities for further discourse and the potential for student placements, as well as faculty professional development.

### Student/Faculty Projects

1. Professor Jody Susi (Kinesiology) and students Aubrey Shepherd, Maggie Shermak (KINS Club Exercise is Medicine - EIM - rep) are working on a project titled "Effects of exercise counseling on goal achievement in healthy adults."
  - a. Professor Susi and the students recruited faculty and staff volunteers who are taken through an individualized testing session based on their exercise goals. They then develop an exercise prescription for each, teach them how to monitor their sessions, then meet with them periodically to provide counseling based on their progress. This is done to help them overcome barriers to exercise, develop strong motivators and support, learn how to push themselves but stay within their limits to prevent injury, learn how to increase their physical activity throughout the day to better achieve their goals, and compare their achievement to those who don't receive exercise counseling.
  - b. This is a pilot study, and will be repeated with a larger sample next semester or next year to include subjects who are not 100% healthy (diabetics, for instance). It is an area that has little to no research, so it is important to study the effects, especially because an entirely new, well-paid career opportunity as a Health and Wellness Coach is available to graduates of Kinesiology. These people work in a doctor's office, doing all the exercise counseling that doctors do not have time to do. They can work with the person's health status and help devise programs that meet the patient's needs. The bonus is they can bill insurance, so it is one of the best paid positions with a Bachelor of Science degree a graduate can pursue.
2. In addition to working with the cross country, track, Men's D2 hockey, Women's D2 hockey, and Women's Volleyball teams, Dr. Koral Fritz have been asked to work with the Women's golf team to provide weekly yoga sessions. The Cannabis Studies Club has requested a regular yoga offering, and a student has approached her about the possibility of a yoga club on campus.

### Conference Presentations

1. Professor Jaimee Gerrie presented a conference session at the American Nurses Association – Michigan Chapter Conference on LSSU's Rural Nurse Residency Certificate program.

2. Professor Jaimee Gerrie presented a conference session for the American Academy of Legal Nurse Consultants (AALNC) on lessons learned in the Legal Nurse Consultation business. This session was a mentoring opportunity for newer nurses looking for support and knowledge for this field of nursing. It was well supported by all levels of Legal Nurses and Nurse Attorneys.

## **Publications**

1. Searight, Russell & Rami, Falu. (2023). Interpreter-Mediated Mental Health Services with Refugees. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-85493-5\_1427-1.
2. Searight, H.R. (2023). *COVID-19: Health Disparities and Ethical Challenges Across the Globe*. Springer.
3. Searight, H.R. & Hoose, K. \*\* (2023). Munchausen by proxy: Clinical and Ethical Issues. *Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence*. Springer Publishers.
4. Searight, H.R & Rami, F. (2023) Interpreter-mediated mental health services with refugees. *Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence*. Springer Publishers.

\*\* LSSU Alumni

## Library and Academic Services

### Career Services

1. Career Services kicked off Great Lake State Weekend by holding the Annual Career Fair on Thursday, October 12. This event was a huge success with over 60 employers coming to campus to recruit our students. We had over 110 students attend and we received nothing but positive remarks on the event. We featured employers from a wide range of industries including robotics, engineering, health care, fisheries and wildlife, tourism, criminal justice and finance/business. In addition, we had employers who were looking for general college graduates in any discipline.

### Library

1. Steve Lehto spoke on September 20 in the Library's Writers Series as he presented the talk "Death's Door: The Italian Hall Disaster." We had a good mix of community and campus participants in attendance with 41 total attendees.
2. The Sustainability Series features LSSU's Professor Jon Doubek on October 5 as he presented "Full Moon Fever: Why NOT Sampling at Night Should Give You the Shivers" with mostly campus attendees, and a total of 24 attendees.
3. The Library hosted Austin Lowes, Chairman of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, as he spoke in the library on November 10 for Indigenous People's Day. We had a good turnout of 70, including local high school students and members of the community.
4. All library outreach series presentations so far this semester have been streamed to three public libraries and are available as podcasts on the library's [LakerCast](#) platform.
5. Library staff have begun recording and distributing a new podcast series called "Talkin Lakers," intended to promote support of campus athletic events and our student athletes. Each episode consists of a weekly update followed by an interview with a coach and wraps up with an interview with a student athlete. The tagline for the show is "Created By Laker Fans FOR Laker Fans." The show has over been accessed by over 490 people so far.
6. In October, Koral Fritz hosted a workshop on managing test anxiety, which was well received. In November, Koral will be filming a version of this workshop with the library staff for LakerCast. The ballroom dance instructor, who also serves as a school psychologist, attended the session and provided critical feedback to his colleagues on how to engage with students who are anxious about assessments.



## Accreditation and Assessment Report

*Strategic Plan Goal Strategy 3.4.7. - Maintain good standing with the Higher Learning Commission and appropriate accreditation bodies.*

1. Two HLC reviewers were on campus October 2-3 to evaluate the readiness of our MBA program. They met briefly with Dr. Gillette and Dr. Muller before moving on to interview staff and faculty about the MBA program. Their initial meeting with staff included Kate Bergel, Interim Dean Mindy McCready, Interim Chair of the Lukenda School of Business, Marta Diaz, and Professor Ralf Wilhelms. Discussion in this first session focused on safeguards we have in place to ensure equity and integrity in our hiring processes, and a detailed description of those hiring practices. The conversation also zeroed in on the roles faculty played and the process they used to plan for and develop the MBA program. A second session included Julie Hober, Mike Furr, and Sara Devaprasad from the IT department. The focus of that session was on LSSU's capacity to deliver and sustain a fully online program, and the types of support services we would make available to the MBA students. The team from IT did an outstanding job providing evidence of our readiness to support the program. A Zoom session was also held to interview the Lukenda School of Business Advisory Board, and two members attended. Both Advisory Board representatives expressed support for the MBA program and confirmed there is a strong need for the program in this region. The reviewers held individual meetings with Fred Pierce and Morrie Walworth, and then met with students from the Lukenda School of Business to determine the level of interest our own undergraduate students will have in the program. In a final meeting with the Curriculum Committee, the HLC reviewers asked about the university's internal processes for development and review of new academic programs, and how we conduct program assessment. The Curriculum Committee explained everything very clearly, and the reviewers seemed very comfortable with their explanations. The reviewer's report was received on October 31, and LSSU has accepted the team's findings and their recommendation for approval. That recommendation of approval will then be on the Institutional Actions Council's meeting agenda on January 8-9 or February 20-21 to vote for approval or denial of the MBA program. Within two weeks of that time, we will receive official notice of their decision.
2. Two additional HLC reviewers came to campus on October 23-24 to conduct our Focused Visit evaluation for finances and enrollment. The following sessions were held to gauge the progress LSSU has made since HLC's last campus visit in 2021. At that time, the reviewers expressed concerns relating to our plans for increasing enrollment, the level of collaboration and transparency in our budget processes, and a multi-year financial plan to move the institution forward in alignment with our strategic plan goals. Meetings included:
  - a. Two sessions with the full Senior Management Team.
  - b. A comprehensive budget discussion session with Mr. Morrie Walworth.
  - c. A session with the Board of Trustees.
  - d. Three open forum sessions with campus community members: one for faculty, one for staff, and one with the whole campus in which faculty, staff, and students were all welcome.
  - e. A session with Deans and Chairs of Colleges and Schools.
  - f. A closing session with Dr. Gillette, Dr. Muller, and Mr. Walworth.

3. Beyond the HLC accreditation activities of the past few months, all discipline-specific accredited programs across Schools and Colleges at LSSU remain in good standing with their accrediting bodies. The Interim Dean for the College of Innovation and Solutions, Mindy McCready, is working with faculty in the Lukenda School of Business and the School of Engineering and Technology to prepare for those upcoming accreditation reaffirmation reviews and site visits in fall of 2024.

### **Assessment**

*Strategic Plan Goal Strategy 1.1.6 - Enhance a culture of cyclical and systematic assessment to drive continuous improvement and innovation in curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular programs and services.*

1. The Annual Assessment Reporting process is working well this year. All administrative units have completed and turned in their departmental evaluative reviews of the 2022-2023 year. Most of the academic programs have completed and turned in their Annual Assessment Update Reports for 2022-2023, but several were delayed due to the fire in the Center for Applied Science and Engineering Technology. The same is true for the 5-year Program Review reports, which are required by HLC as evidence that the university conducts regular program reviews. We expect everything to be turned in by the end of this calendar year, which will still meet HLC's expectations.

### **Title III Grant**

1. Title III grant and KCP grant staff members continue to work collaboratively to improve retention at LSSU. The two teams meet regularly to coordinate and align retention efforts for both programs, and to ensure that at-risk students who are identified through the Early Alert system get prompt support. This year the group has activated a plan in which individual Title III Academic Support Advisors and Laker Success support advisors will each take on a liaison role with a specific School. In this new process, each advisor now has the opportunity to establish a closer working relationship with the faculty in a specific School. As the support advisors meet and work with faculty within their assigned School, those faculty members will get to know the support advisors as a personal point of contact to go to for help with their students. The group is excited about this new process, and expects it to have a very positive impact on the effectiveness of our support to students, and in consequence upon student retention as well.

## Office of Sponsored Programs

Since the last Board of Trustees meeting, LSSU has received four new grant awards.

1. King•Chávez•Parks (KCP) Competitive Grant

External Grant Awards				
Sponsor	Amount	Award Period	Budget Highlights	PI
State of Michigan King-Chávez-Parks (KCP) Select Student Support Services (4S) Program	\$102,797/year for 6 years	10/01/2023-09/30/2029	Salary and fringe Indirect: N/A	Anya Alexander

The KCP Select Student Support Services (4S) program helps support the LSSU Laker Success Program coordinated through the Student Affairs Department. The Laker Success Program is a retention program designed to benefit students from academically or economically disadvantaged backgrounds and aims to increase graduation rates through coordinated support efforts. Through the Laker Success program, students receive ongoing support through student mentors and coaches, an academic alert system, and numerous campus events and workshops.

2. King•Chávez•Parks (KCP) Competitive Grant

External Grant Awards				
Sponsor	Amount	Award Period	Budget Highlights	PI
State of Michigan King-Chávez-Parks (KCP) Morris Hood, Jr. Educator Development (MHED) Program	\$28,602/year for 6 years	10/01/2023-09/30/2029	Salary and fringe Indirect: N/A	Christy Wenger/Ashley Moerke

The KCP Morris Hood Jr. Educator Development (MHED) program will establish a new LSSU program to support the development of the Pathways and Progress: Indigenous Education Development Program (IEDP). The IEDP that will recruit and support students into the education program, where they will earn a Pre-K-12 Indigenous Education certificate alongside their degree.

3. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

External Grant Awards				
Sponsor	Amount	Award Period	Budget Highlights	PI
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)	\$105,019	10/01/2023-09/30/2024	Salary/Fringe: \$12,000 Indirect Costs: \$5,575	Bryan Fuller

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) awarded a second year of funding under the MDHHS Emergency Medical Services Workforce grant program. The intent of the EMS Workforce grants are to establish, implement, and operate a workforce development

program to train individuals in emergency medical services to address the critical shortage of paramedics statewide, and to increase accessibility to EMS education programming, specifically paramedic programs, in Michigan. The LSSU program will offer student scholarships (up to \$6,500/semester) to qualified students admitted to the paramedic program. The funded program will also implement a coordinated outreach plan to LSSU partners to recruit additional students to the EMS Paramedic program.

4. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

<b>External Grant Awards</b>				
<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Award Period</b>	<b>Budget Highlights</b>	<b>PI</b>
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC)	\$27,523.45	08/07/2023-08/06/2024	Salary/Fringe: \$5,549 Indirect Costs: \$943	Ashley Moerke

The Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE) will lead the project titled *Investigation of water quality trigger points for Didymo blooms in the St. Marys Rapids, Lake Superior*, in collaboration with the US Army Corps of Engineers Research and Development Center (ERDC) to implement a water quality-monitoring program to identify the physiochemical parameters that may initiate Rock Snot, scientifically known as *Didymosphenia geminata* (Didymo), stalk production (blooms) in the St. Marys River rapids.

## Native American Center

The Native American Center has held the following events this fall:

1. Soup Tuesdays
  - a. The Native American Center served soup on Tuesdays throughout the fall. This serves as a way to attract more students, faculty, and staff to visit the Native American Center.
2. The Native American Center planted cedar trees on Friday, September 8.
3. Orange Shirt Day – Friday, September 29
  - a. Orange Shirt Day recognized the legacy of Indigenous Peoples’ residential school experience by encouraging staff, faculty, and students to wear orange shirts.



4. Indigenous Peoples’ Day on Tuesday, October 10, at 1:00 pm in the Library Commons
  - a. Indigenous People’s Day was on Monday, October 9. LSSU publicly acknowledged this day.
  - b. On Tuesday, October 10, we held an event recognizing Indigenous People’s Day. Austen Lowes, Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Chairperson, spoke at 1:00 pm in the Library Commons.





5. Native American Heritage Month

- a. Angeline Bouley, New York Times Best Selling author of *The Firekeepers Daughter* and *Warrior Girl Unearthed*, talked about her books on Monday, October 30, at 7:00 pm in the Library Commons. Ms. Bouley is a native of Sugar Island, and a member of the Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. *The Firekeeper's Daughter* has become "One of this year's most buzzed about young adult novels" (Good Morning America), and has been awarded, among other accolades, A TIME Magazine Best Young Adult Book of All Time Selection, and The Goodreads Best Young Adult Fiction Award for 2021. *Warrior Girl Unearthed* has won the American Indian Youth Literature Award for Young Adult, 2021 Kids' Indie Next List Selection, Entertainment Weekly Most Anticipated Books of 2021 Selection, and PopSugar Best March 2021 YA Book Selection. Funding for this event was provided by the Issues and Intellect Fund.
- b. Angeline Bouley also met with the students of Dr. Aaron Westrick's courses, CJUS212: Loss Control and CJUS321: Ethical Issues Public Safety.



Angeline Bouley speaking with Dr. Aaron Westrick's CJUS212: Loss Control and CJUS321: Ethical Issues Public Safety classes.

- c. Art Gallery Display by Sonja and Jefferson Ballew is displayed in the Library Art Gallery. Sonja is the LSSU adjunct teaching our Ojibwe language courses.
- d. Culinary Experience was held on Thursday, November 2, in the Library. Sonja and Jefferson Ballew explored Manoomin (Wild Rice): A Food Staple Through Time.
- e. An Indigenous Peoples' Inspired Meal in the Quarterdeck was served during lunch on Thursday, November 9, in the Quarterdeck.
- f. Rock your Mocs was celebrated on November 15. Rock your Mocs is a worldwide social media event provided as a positive opportunity to be united and celebrate tribal individuality by wearing moccasins.
- g. Traditional Indigenous Peoples' games, Double Ball and Shinny, will be played by students, faculty, and staff in Pleger Commons (rain location: Student Activity Center) on Friday, November 17, at 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.



## Academic Affairs Report November 17, 2023

### Agenda Item #7: Contributions to the Strategic Plan

Information

Action

Discussion

#### Purpose:

The Board of Trustees approved the Strategic Plan on April 24, 2020. Since that time, we have been working on many areas in the Strategic Plan. I have included several key updates.

#### Background:

##### Contributions to the Strategic Plan

*1.1.2 Add new academic programs and delivery methods for certificates, associates, and baccalaureate degrees that meet student and market needs for traditional and nontraditional students in the LSSU broader service region.*

1. The Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity was developed and will start fall 2024 if approved by the Board of Trustees.

*2.4.2 Increase communications highlighting successes, accomplishments, and key initiatives of students, faculty, staff, and alumni across multiple platforms and when possible invite community participation.*

1. The marketing department has increased followers on social media (increased number of followers: Facebook – 191, X – 7, and Instagram – 113).

*3.2.5 Develop the Center for Freshwater Research and Education to offer academic programs and to become financial sustainable.*

1. CFRE continues to bring in external funding with recent awards bringing the total awarded to LSSU since the conception of CFRE to more than \$6.5 million.

*3.2.16 Develop a comprehensive Campus Events Management Plan to coordinate and maximize campus spaces, events success, and net revenue generation.*

1. Provides a single point of contact for scheduling campus events.

*4.2.2 Develop and maintain a promotional system in support of LSSU events and summer activities to broaden exposure, participation, and engagement.*

1. We created a campus wide Google calendar of events and reinstated the Events Calendar on the LSSU home page.

*4.3.2 Enhance the University's relationship with Bay Mills Community College.*

1. LSSU, Bay Mills Community College, MyMichigan Sault, and the Sault Area High School Allied Health program are in the process of developing a consortium to provide clearer pathways for entry into careers in the medical field. The consortium will allow for internships, aid, and support for many career levels from medical assistants to our bachelor's program in nursing.

*4.4.4 Strengthen and grow opportunities for joint programming through Career Technical Education and Early Middle College.*

1. The College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education team has been actively drafting articulation agreements with Career and Technical Education (CTE) high school programs and community colleges that currently draw higher numbers to School of Natural Resources and School of Education programs.

**Suggested Action/Motion:**

None

**President's Recommendation:**

N/A