

# news

APRIL 2024

## From the Top

"I alone can't change the world but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

-Mother Teresa

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for serving on the board for one of our Lake Superior State University public school academies. We may be biased but we believe that we have the best board members around; caring, passionate, knowledgeable, capable, diverse, dedicated, and full of integrity are just a few words we've heard used to describe our academy board members. We couldn't agree more.

We would like to acknowledge those of you who have consistently served on one of our boards. See page 2. Research shows a positive link between academies that have stable and effective boards and positive student outcomes.

If I can be of service to you, please reach out to me at 906-635-2121 or [coshelski@lssu.edu](mailto:coshelski@lssu.edu)

Sincerely,

Chris Oshelski  
Executive Director



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# Board Member Recognition



## THANK YOU BOARD MEMBERS!

### 5+ year

**Natalie Evans**

American Intern. Academy, 6 yrs

**Angeline Gardner**

American Intern. Academy, 9 yrs,

**Kevin Ford**

Advanced Tech. Academy, 5 years

**Trisha Coonan**

Bay City Academy, 9 yrs

**Lena Jankowiak**

Bay City Academy, 9 yrs

**Jeffrey Derenzy**

Concord Boyne, 9 yrs

**Veronica Bridson**

Charlton Heston Academy, 8 yrs

**Airlene Gross**

Detroit Service Learning, 9 yrs

**Jeanette Owens**

Detroit Service Learning, 8 yrs

**Allen Richardson**

Detroit Service Learning, 6 yrs

**Dave Barry**

iCademy Global, 5 yrs

**Rebekah DeVries**

iCademy Global, 7 yrs

**Abbie Petroelje**

Innocademy, 5 yrs

**Laurel Schmitt**

Innocademy, 6 yrs

### 5+ year continued

**Alwin**

Innocademy Allegan, 6 yrs

**Shana Giles**

Macomb Montessori, 7 yrs

**Jennifer Johnson**

Macomb Montessori, 9 yrs

**Carrie Rohrbach**

Momentum Academy, 6 yrs

**Jeremiah Wolfrom**

Momentum Academy, 8 yrs

**Jillian Stelma**

Regent Park, 6 yrs

**Lateefah Gofoe**

Ridge Park, 7 yrs

**Derrick Owens**

Rige Park, 5 yrs

**Latesa Thomas**

Ridge Park, 8 yrs

**Laura Chavez**

WAY Detroit, 6 yrs

**Sheila Flanagan**

WAY Detroit, 7 yrs

### 10+ year

**Douglas Bartell**

Detroit Service Learning, 13 yrs

**Idowu Jegede**

Detroit Service Learning, 10 yr

**Orlando Woods**

Detroit Service Learning, 13 yrs

**Nick DeVries**

Innocademy, 12 yrs

**Emmett Jones**

Macomb Montessori, 11 yrs

**John Marks**

Macomb Montessori, 11 yrs

**Robert Terwilliger III**

Momentum Academy, 11 yrs

**Barbara Bates**

Regent Park, 11 yrs

**Dan Griwicki**

Tipton Academy, 11 yrs

**Alisia O'Driscoll**

Tipton Academy, 11 yrs

**Kevin Szuba**

Tipton Academy, 11 yrs

**Scott Winiger**

Tipton Academy, 11 yrs

**Michael Murray**

WAY Detroit, 11 yrs

**Howard Buetow**

WAY Flint, 11 yrs

### 15+ year

**Peter Stockmann**

Advanced Tech. Academy, 9yrs  
American Intern. Academy, 9 yrs

### 20+ year

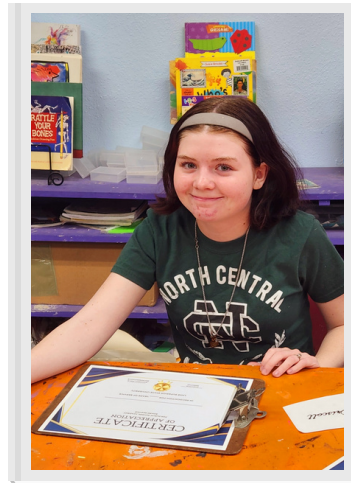
**James Dozier**

Detroit Service Learning 21yrs

# SHOUT OUT

## *Thank you North Central Academy Students!*

Thank you to students Tristan Breeding, Grace Mazzella, Shaylee White, Hunter Johnson, Keylara Beard, Nevaeh Whittredge, Leighanna Irwin, Zoey Breedlove, Briley Stone and instructor Elizabeth Butterfield from North Central Academy who used their impressive calligraphy talents to assist us with the Board Member Recognition Certificates.



Calligraphy comes from the Greek word ***kallos*** meaning "beauty" and ***graphein*** meaning "to write."

# Compliance Corner

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Applications for board members reappointments or new appointments were due by **Friday, April 5th**. Please be sure to have all documentation submitted to your field representative so that we can process and make the LSSU board agenda deadline. The only LSSU Board of Trustees meeting prior to term expirations will be on May 17th, 2024.

-Reminder-

New and Expanding MDE form due by **Friday, April 12th** to the Charter Schools Office. Remember, if not expanding, you need to return the form with NOT expanding checked.

Annual Meetings---Reminder that it is best practice to schedule annual board meetings in May or June. Doing so allows Epicenter tasks and other items to be scheduled based on your commitments and coordinates with board term expirations of June 30, 2024.

Board members---The Charter Schools Office is seeking possible topics for future professional development. Please submit your suggestions to your field representative.

## BOARD TRAINING DATES

The last training in the series presented by **Angie Irwin is scheduled for,**

- **April 17th**- Question & Answer Session  
Dedicated to Topics from the year

All trainings begin at 6 p.m.

Look for additional board professional development resources on our website:

<https://www.lssu.edu/charterschools/professionaldevelopment/>

“The quality of your public education should not be defined by your zip code.”

-Jalen Rose

“Education is the passport for the future.”  
For tomorrow belongs only to the people who prepare for it today.”

-Malcolm X

# DR. SEUSS QUOTES

- Why fit in when you were born to stand out?
- You'll miss the best things if you keep your eyes shut.
- You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.
- Think and wonder. Wonder and think.
- It is better to learn how to learn than to know.



You're on your own.  
And you know what you know.  
**YOU** are the one to decide  
where you'll go.

## March Reading Month

March is designated as National Reading Month in honor of the late and great Theodore Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss. Geisel was born on March 2nd, 1904 and wrote over sixty books. Dr. Seuss books are known for their colorful characters, rhyming words, creativity, and just plain fun!

Many of our academies organized various events throughout the month that encouraged reading and literacy activities. Brooke and I were fortunate to be guest readers at some of our LSSU authorized academies. What fun! Thank you for having us.

-Submitted by Julie Buchholtz



“The more that you read, the more things you’ll know,  
the more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

-Dr. Seuss



# Academy Spotlight

## American International Academy

Submitted by Keith Young



The students in Ecotek Lab at AIA have been quite busy during the month of March. This weekend over 40 deserving students from the Rosewood and Avondale campuses attended the Youth Mobility Summit in Detroit. On March 9 nearly 30 students from AIA attended the Jr MANNRS Leadership Symposium at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

The students had a good time learning and connecting their work in the lab to the world outside of school. The Youth Mobility Summit focused on using science to improve mobility for urban communities via electric vehicles and autonomous vehicles. Corey Royal, Aidan Middlebrooks, William Taylor- Lee, and Keshawn Earby-Boyd held down the poster presentation tables, while the other students participated in mobility workshops, virtual reality sessions and drone competitions.

The Jr.MANRRS Leadership Symposium at Michigan State was aligned with the agricultural and natural science fields. MANRRS is the leading organization for engaging people of color in agricultural industries worldwide. In 2024, Mr. Young, the Founder and CEO of Ecotek Lab, spearheaded the formation and launch of the largest workforce-youth advocacy group for MANRRS in the State of Michigan.

Students from Ecotek Lab-AIA attended workshops, met with professors and professionals in the field of natural science as well as participated in written and public speaking competitions. Unique Peterson was highlighted for the essay that she authored on addressing food insecurity in African countries. Her essay along with other students at AIA will be shared with world leaders at the United Nations in June 2024. Unique was all smiles when her name was called!!

Attached to this email are pictures from the Youth Mobility Summit and the Jr MANNRS Leadership Symposium. A big thank you goes out to Ms. Kelly for making sure that the bus was available to take the students to MSU and to Mr. Evan Morton and Mr. Kaylynn Williams for making sure that the students were prepared academically for the field trips.



# Advanced Technology Academy

**April 2024-** Family Engagement Nights serve as valuable opportunities to build relationships, share resources, and empower families to play an active role in their children's education and development. Advanced Technology Academy (ATA) strives to strengthen home-to-school connections by offering events where families can spend time together and interact with staff on a less formal basis. Encouraging active participation from families is key to participation, whether through hands-on activities, discussions, or networking opportunities. In the past, we struggled with attendance at family events, and now our events might have 500+ attendees.

Beginning last year and continuing this year, ATA added three new events to the traditional Back2School Night, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and end of the year Ice Cream Social, Family Game Night, Reading Night, and Weird Science Night.

These “engagement nights” are just one component of our broader strategy for fostering family involvement in our educational program. We continually follow up with families after the event to reinforce key messages, provide resources or support, and solicit feedback for future programming.

Based on survey data, we now offer our Parent School Improvement meetings on two days - one in English and one in Spanish. We regularly hold focus groups for parents to address any barriers/concerns they may have, and we are piloting Inquiry Learning in the Mathematics Curriculum and the Science of Reading Workshops for parents/guardians to help them better understand how their children are learning.

Submitted by Kaye LaGreca, Chief Academic Officer



# Brooke's Corner

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The spring sprint is on and the end of the school year is quickly approaching. We are working hard to get a terrific line up planned for summer learning opportunities and for next year. Currently, we have put together a few distance learning book studies. These book studies are open to anyone for no cost (participant must provide their own book), with a great opportunity to discuss your thoughts with folks doing similar work, day in and day out. The list of books we are exploring are,

- **Lead with Instructional Rounds** by Vicki Wilson
- **Never Underestimate Your Teachers** by Robyn Jackson
- **Never Work Harder Than Your Students** by Robyn Jackson
- **The Power of Questioning; Opening Up the World of Student Inquiry** by Starr Sackstein
- **7 Mighty Moves; Research-Backed, Classroom-Tested Strategies to Ensure K-to-3 Reading Success** by Lindsay Kemeny
- **Differentiating Phonics Instruction for Maximum Impact** by Wiley Blevins

Leadership is a skill that can always be improved, no matter what stage of your career you are in. One way to enhance your leadership potential is to attend a leadership conference, where you can learn from experts, network with peers, and gain new insights. With this in mind, LSSU CSO is working hard on our 2024 Leadership Summit that will be held in Bay City on July 16th and 17th. We look forward to spending some time growing with your leaders and celebrating the amazing work they do each day.

In addition to these book studies and the Leadership Summit, we will be holding three work groups throughout the summer and next school year. The first will be on Restorative Practices. The first session for this will be held in Bay City on July 18th (following the Leadership Summit) with other sessions following throughout the school year. The second session will focus on supporting administrators who are coaching their staff to unpack the Michigan educational standards. The third work group will be looking at new School Safety plan template that is set to be released by Michigan State Police later this summer/fall. Dates and times of the Unpacking Standards and School Safety plan work groups will be set at a later date.

Here's wishing you a great end of school year and we will see you along the way. We cannot wait to learn and grow together.

Thanks.

-Brooke

## **Registration Links:**

### **Book Study: Never Underestimate Your Teachers by Robyn Jackson**

This book study will meet once a week via Zoom for 6 weeks. The first meeting date will be April 24 at 4:30-5:30, with additional meeting dates to be established based on majority participant availability. Up to 18.5 SCECH's available.



## **2024 Leadership Summit**



# National Charter Schools Week

**2024 CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK**

DAILY PRIZES AWARDED

## CHALLENGES

**Monday, May 13**  
Show off your LSSU pride by wearing an LSSU t-shirt and posting a picture to our LSSU CSO Facebook page.

**Tuesday, May 14**  
Take a picture of your academy mascot and post a picture to our LSSU CSO Facebook page.

**Wednesday, May 15**  
Nominate an Unsung Hero. This may be a support staff member, lunch room worker, custodian, or volunteer. Individuals serving in leadership positions, teachers, or board members are not eligible for this category. Complete the nomination form by May 3rd, 2024.  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1-...>

**Thursday, May 16**  
Do you have an academy song? Post a picture of your students, staff, or board members singing the song and posting to our LSSU CSO Facebook page. Extra points for including a choreographed dance routine.

**Friday, May 17**  
Nominate a Change Maker for your academy. This may be a teacher, principal, or board member. Complete the nomination form by May 3rd, 2024.  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XcqcMq3oK1P1vPv3jx1HWuRq13nd...>

[facebook.com/LSSUCharters](https://www.facebook.com/LSSUCharters)

Questions? Contact [jhopper@lssu.edu](mailto:jhopper@lssu.edu) or [hmaciag@lssu.edu](mailto:hmaciag@lssu.edu)



National Charter Schools Week will be celebrated the week of May 13th through May 17th. The Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) will host various daily challenges. Follow the link to learn more, <https://www.charterschools.org/charter-schools-weekSchools>.

On Wednesday, May 15th, charter school advocates will gather at the Capitol in Lansing to celebrate the wonderful world of charters. If you have never attended Charter School Day at the Capital, we encourage you to attend. This special day brings together charter school advocates from across Michigan, plus participants get to enjoy a picnic lunch. It's a good time. :)

Lake Superior State University Charter Schools will also jump on the daily challenge bandwagon with prizes awarded each day. Please read the flyer to the left and follow our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/LSSUCharters/>

## Finance Corner

### April

28th- Budget Amendment

### May

15th- 3rd Quarter Financial Statements

### June

30th- Final 2024 Budget Amendment

30th- FY2025 Adopted Budget Resolution

30th- Public Hearing Notice

30th- Budget Timeline



Money grows on the tree of persistence.

-Japanese Proverb

# LSSU Welcomes New President



President David Travis

The search for the 11th President of LSSU has concluded with Dr. David Travis, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin at River Falls, being selected to fill the vacancy. Travis was formally appointed as president by the LSSU Board of Trustees at their February 22nd meeting. President Travis will begin his term effective June 3, 2024.

Dr. Travis earned a Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Geography from the University of Georgia and a Ph.D. in Geography from Indiana University. He began his academic career at the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater in 1994 as Assistant Professor of Geography. Dr. Travis was later selected as the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin- River Falls (UWRF) in 2018 and has assumed increasing responsibilities for UWRF's academic portfolio and organizational activities. To learn more about President Travis, click here, <https://www.lssu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Travis-David-CV-FINAL.pdf>



North Central Academy's, Lisa Stambaugh, was awarded the Rotary Club of Mancelona, Michigan "Educator of the Month" Award for January.

Lisa, a 2015 NCA graduate, oversees all of NCA's K-2 special education students. Both children and staff speak glowingly of Lisa's dedication and team spirit.

We're extremely proud to have such a wonderful advocate for special education on our team.

Published by North Central Academy

# Testing Windows

Per your Educational Goals, NWEA MAP testing (math and reading) is required to be administered to all 2nd-8th graders three times a year according to the LSSU mandated testing windows.

The 2024-2025 testing windows will be as follows.

## Fall

September 9- October 4

## Winter

January 6- February 3

## Spring

April 28- June 6



Remember, if your academy requires a modification from the LSSU mandated windows, it must be approved by Julie Buchholtz. Requests can be made at [jhopper@lssu.edu](mailto:jhopper@lssu.edu).

## Leadership Summit

**WHAT:** LSSU Charter Schools Leadership Summit

**WHEN:** July 16th-17th, 2024

**WHERE:** Bay City, Michigan

**WHY:** The Leadership Summit will allow the opportunity for teachers, administrators, and staff to come together for professional development, collaboration, and team building.

Please contact Brooke Maciag if you have questions at [bmaciag@lssu.edu](mailto:bmaciag@lssu.edu).

Registration information: [2024 Leadership Summit](#)



## **Philosophy**

*We believe in authorizing through the lens of an educator, realizing students are more than academic performance or financial incentives. True authorizing takes into account the whole child, whole academy, and whole community while recognizing the importance of increased performance and sustainability.*

## **Mission**

*To ensure quality oversight and support to our authorized charter academies resulting in students who are prepared for the next phase of life whether it be attending college, joining the military, or entering the workforce.*

## **Vision**

*We envision an educational system in Michigan that provides families with diverse educational opportunities that allow each child to flourish and find their place in the global community.*



# LSSU CSO Team

**Chris Oshelski**  
Executive Director  
coshelski@lssu.edu

**Julie Buchholtz**  
Academic Assessment  
jhopper@lssu.edu

**Becky Clawson**  
Finance & Governance  
rclawson@lssu.edu

**Garnet Green**  
Field Representative  
ggreen3@lssu.edu

**Brooke Maciag**  
School Support  
bmaciag@lssu.edu

**Lynn Methner**  
Field Representative  
lmethner1@lssu.edu

**Jenny Peterman**  
Reauthorization &  
Compliance  
jpeterman@lssu.edu

**Joe Thienes**  
Field Representative  
jthienes@lssu.edu

**Melissa Weisberger**  
Field Representative  
mweisberger@lssu.edu

