

Academic Affairs Update
March 13, 2025

College of Arts and Sciences

Student Accomplishments and Activities

- Kaylin Burton (Biology) was accepted into the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.
- Laura Yukich (Biology) was accepted into the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.

Recruitment and Outreach

- Music Director Casey Snyder hosted Band Day on February 8. High school musicians from the Eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP) and beyond came to experience the collegiate music experience which included rehearsal and performing at the hockey game with the Lake Superior Soundwave Pep Band.
- Music Director Casey Snyder was invited to Sault Area High School on March 11 and St. Ignace LaSalle High School on March 13 to perform band clinics.
- The College of Arts and Sciences hosted an Academic Showcase for admitted students on February 21. The students took part in laboratory activities and discussed academic programming with faculty.
- Dr. Steven Johnson hosted the Sault High college chemistry class on February 27 in Crawford Hall, to perform multiple chemistry laboratories.
- Dr. Martha Hutchens traveled to WAY Academy of Detroit on March 3 to perform outreach activities and meet with 55 - 60 students.



Music Director Casey Snyder and the Lake Superior Soundwave Pep Band featuring LSSU students along with high school students from the EUP and beyond.

Community Engagement

- Dr. Mark Zierden, Dr. Barbara Evans, and Eric Richardsen hosted several teachers from EUP ISD Collective Gardening Group on a tour of the LSSU Aquaponics Lab. The group consists of

health teachers, science teachers, elementary teachers, community partners, and other ISD employees who work in the realm of nutrition education.

- Professor Ben Southwell administered the Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) recertification course on February 27.
- The Arts Center hosted Cloverland, which had a two-day lecture series on February 11 and 12.
- Back to the Future was shown on February 14 and 16 in the Arts Center as a part of the movie series at LSSU, supported by the Coopers. It is a vibrant and inclusive series designed to bring together students, staff, faculty, and the local community in celebration of the arts. Hosted at the Art Center, these events showcase a diverse range of films, offering a unique opportunity for attendees to enjoy cinematic experiences in a welcoming and engaging environment. The series not only promotes cultural enrichment but also fosters a sense of community, providing a fun and accessible way for people from all walks of life to connect through the shared enjoyment of film.
- Music Director Casey Snyder and the Lake Superior Soundwave Pep Band joined community musicians to support the LSSU America Collegiate Hockey Association Women's Hockey Team at the Pullar Ice Arena on February 14.
- The Arts Center hosted the Missouri Children's Theater over the week of February 17. Children from throughout the area auditioned and ultimately performed the Wizard of Oz.
- The Arts Center hosted the Michigan Department of Corrections graduation on February 28.

Operations and Infrastructure Projects

- In collaboration with Sodexo, the Sustainability Committee is implementing a food recycling program that will provide access to leftover sides and entrées to students at no cost to help prevent food insecurity on campus.

Conference Presentations

- Dr. Barbara Evans and two students, Anissa Overly (Cannabis Chemistry) and Andrew Pothoven (Biology), presented their research at the World Aquaculture Society meeting in New Orleans on March 3 and 4:

"Continued Analysis of Metal Ions in Closed Loop Aquaponics." Anissa Overly, Barbara Evans, Derek Wright, and Benjamin Southwell

"Determining the Effects of Sediments from Stamp Sands Along Lake Superior on Zebrafish *Danio rerio*" Andrew Pothoven, Jun Li, Derek Wright, Mark Zierden

College of Business, Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics

Publications and Creative Works

- Dr. Georgi Kalchev's paper on "Fatal Car Crashes and Marijuana Legalization" was accepted for publication in the Journal of Management Policy and Practice.

- Dr. Bridgette Russell’s paper on “Examining Task-Specific Incongruous Mathematics Self-Efficacy in University Intermediate Algebra Students” was published in the International Journal for Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education.

Community Engagement

- The Lukenda School of Business hosted the Chamber of Commerce *Business After 5* event on February 20. Over 60 community members gathered in Considine Hall to network.

In Memoriam

- Charles “Chuck” Weber, Professor Emeritus, passed away on February 17, 2025. Chuck taught engineering at LSSU for 29 years and helped start the LSSU Computer Engineering Technology program. Chuck is the father of current LSSU engineering faculty member Dr. Paul Weber.

College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education

Student Accomplishments and Activities

- Gwen Phillips (Fisheries and Wildlife Management) was awarded the Runner-up for the Best Student Presentation award at the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society’s 2025 meeting. Gwen was mentored by Dr. Jon Doubek.
- Five Fisheries and Wildlife students presented at the Michigan American Fisheries Society conference in Marquette, Michigan, and six additional students attended the conference along with two faculty and three CFRE staff. The incoming MIAFS president was also a LSSU alumnus.
- February CFRE Ambassadors Event: Lure making with Dr. Kapuscinski, 20 students participated and went home with their own lures.
- Dr. Kapuscinski and Dr. Moerke led a resume workshop for the LSSU Fisheries and Wildlife Club for 16 students.
- CFRE and the Fisheries and Wildlife Club hosted seven fisheries biologists and technicians from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for two recruiting events—a luncheon at CFRE and a meet and greet at Laker Hall. Over 40 students participated in the events.



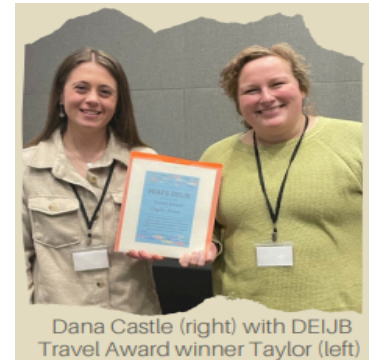
Figure 1. Silas Dunn, CFRE researcher, presenting at the Michigan American Fisheries Society annual meeting (left), and the LSSU students, faculty, and staff that presented at and participated in the conference (right).

Conference Presentations

- Phillips, G., J. Doubek, J., K. Kapuscinski, and 25 others. The occurrence, abundance, and type of microplastics in larval Lake Whitefish *Coregonus clupeaformis* guts in relation to water depth and anthropogenic land use. Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (2025; Runner up, Best Student Presentation; mentor: J. Doubek).
- Prow, E., J. Doubek, J., K. Kapuscinski, and 24 others. Zooplankton beach and nearshore densities and their relation to larval coregonines at day versus night in the Upper Great Lakes. Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (2025).
- Leitz, C., A. Moerke, R. DeBruyne, S. Provo, S. Ireland. Inventory of Fish Spawning and Nursery Habitats in the Straits of Mackinac, Michigan, USA. Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society 2025 Annual Conference. Poster.
- Perigo, N., A. Moerke, K. Kapuscinski, C. Leitz, D. Heckman, S. Dunn. 2025. Assessing the impact of water level changes on fishes and benthic macroinvertebrates in St. Marys River Rapids, Michigan, USA. Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society 2025 Annual Conference. Poster.
- Dunn, S., J. Doubek, C. Brant, D. Bunnell, L. Egedy, S. Freeman, K. Kapuscinski, R. Tingley. 2025. Crustacean zooplankton density and biomass are greater in beach and nearshore habitats of the North Channel versus in southern Lake Huron. Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society 2025 Annual Conference. Lightning talk.

Honors and Awards

- Recent graduate Taylor Gross (Fisheries Management concentration, '24) received the DEIJB Travel Award from the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries society for their work with Lake Superior State University's Fisheries and Wildlife Club and the Michigan Chapter's Executive Committee.



Dana Castle (right) with DEIJB Travel Award winner Taylor (left)

Recruitment and Outreach

- Dr. Tommy Mackey visited Cheboygan High School and participated in a college fair event with 80 students attending.
- The School of Education completed North Central Michigan College and Bay College Articulation agreements for Teacher Education (BK, K-6, and 3-6).
- Michelle Visser attended Rudyard High School's CTE week February 3-5 to showcase the Natural Resources program. Each day, 4-5 groups of around 10 students came and heard about what students do in the first and second year of the program. School groups came from Sault High, Rudyard, Pickford, Brimley and OCS.
- Silas Dunn (CFRE) has been working with a Sault High CTE student as part of a work-place learning program. The student is learning how to process zooplankton samples taken from the CFRE hatchery.

Community Engagement

- The Great Lakes Discovery Center (GLDC) is open the first and third weekends of the month for a story and craft or special program. 60 visitors participated in these GLDC activities in February, 2025. Activities were developed and facilitated by CFRE E&O student assistants (Alaina Kecskes, Brynn Jannetta, and Ryan Quackenbush)
 - February 1, 2025: story and craft—Lewis Cardinal’s First Winter by Amy Crane Johnson.
 - February 15, 2025: Backyard Bird Count—observing CFRE’s migratory water fowl and winter resident eagles with bird identification activities. Seven bird species were reported to eBird during this event (Common Golden Eye, Common Merganser, Bald Eagle, American Crow, Common Raven, American Herring Gull, and Mallards).

Operations and Infrastructure Projects

- Dr. Ashley Moerke and Beth Christiansen met with vice president of Victory Cruise Lines, which recently signed an MOU to support over 30 cruise ship visits to Barch CFRE in summer 2025. This partnership will support two summer outreach student positions.

Other Initiatives

- The School of Education developed a partnership with VESi and LSSU recently signed two MOUs to serve as the host for teacher education professional development coursework for the state of Florida and the state of Michigan. These partnerships will increase LSSU’s visibility to over 150,000 teachers and provide a revenue stream to support growth in the School of Education.
- Dr. Kandel submitted the Geospatial Technology Associate degree’s application for State Approval of Postsecondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs. It was a year-long effort of assembling an advisory committee, holding the first advisory committee meeting, collecting the program’s evaluation data from advisory committee members, conducting a need-study survey within the region, and collecting future workforce demand data from labor projection to put together in this comprehensive application.

College of Health and Emergency Responders

Student Accomplishments and Activities

- LSSU 2007 Criminal Justice graduate Ashley Simpson (Skiera) was a guest speaker in Dr. Schaefer’s CJUS 341 Fire Cause/Arson Investigation class. Special Sergeant Simpson shared her experiences as a Fire Investigator for the Michigan State Police.
- Junior Sophie Gibbs (Kinesiology) was recognized by the ACHA WD1 as an Academic All American for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.
- Junior Tessa Deal (Kinesiology) was recognized by the ACHA WD1 as an Academic All American for th024-2025 Academic Year.



- Junior Sarah Lamb (Kinesiology) was recognized by the ACHA WD1 as an Academic All American for the 2024-2025 Academic Year

Grants

- The School of Nursing received a \$6,028 grant from the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) for a Nursing Summer Camp offering at LSSU for Summer 2025.

Academic Program Successes

- The School of Nursing reported an NCLEX-RN pass rate of 95% for 2024. This is above the national average (91.2%) and the Michigan average (87%).

Recruitment and Outreach

- Programming was provided for 8 Soo College students from the Fitness and Health Program on February 20 and two faculty members. LSSU Alum Lisa Maida (2012) is one of the faculty that made the trip.
- Junior Transfer Student Brook Rivers (Kinesiology) was interviewed by the “Voice of the Lakers” Mr. Bill Crawford regarding all things KINS, during the first intermission of the Laker Hockey game on February 22.
- Senior Katelyn Moore (Kinesiology) was a guest on the “KINS is Cool” Podcast on February 11.
- Junior Tessa Deal (Kinesiology) was a guest on the “KINS is Cool” Podcast on February 25.

Publicity

- Dr. Fred Williams was featured by the Sault Evening News to discuss combining his passion for athletics and academics to inspire students. He shared that though he initially aspired to be a doctor, he shifted to exercise science after discovering his interest in physical therapy and teaching. Returning to his hometown after studying and traveling, Dr. Williams now focuses on encouraging students to explore beyond their comfort zones while fostering engaging, interactive learning experiences in his classes.



Operations and Infrastructure Projects

- LSSU Fire Regional Training Center (RTC) received \$17,500 from the State of Michigan Bureau of Fire Services Fire Fighter Training Division. These funds enabled the purchase of four conex boxes that have now been delivered to the LSSU campus and will be the future site for the LSSU Fire RTC Live Fire Training Facility. Planning is taking place with Sault Ste. Marie High School Career Center, who will be assisting with construction of the facilities as well as the construction of a suppression system for the facility. This space will be invaluable for LSSU Fire Science students as well as the Michigan State Police Fire Investigation division who will be hosting their fall 40 hour fire investigation course at the site in 2025.

Upcoming Events

1. Kathryn Levitan (Biology 2022) will visit campus to discuss her journey as a naturopathic medical student: Crawford 205, Friday, March 14, 3:00 pm
2. Pi Day Celebration – series of games, fun and pie, Library Learning Commons, Friday, March 14, 3:14 pm
3. EUPISD History Day: Arts Center, Friday, March 14, 1:00 pm
4. World Water Day: “All Too Clear” featuring children’s activities and a public showing of the documentary which discusses the consequences of the zebra mussel invasion in Lakes Huron and Michigan, CFRE, March 15, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm,
5. CFRE is hosting multiple external groups next month including the St. Marys River Harbor Safety Committee on March 5, US Coast Guard Conference on March 19.
6. Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead, Arts Center, March 19 – 21, 7:00 pm, March 22, 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
7. Lunch N Learn – STEP UP Program, CETAL, Thursday, March 20, 12:00 pm
8. Dr. Valance Washington (Oakland University) will visit campus to speak about his research on platelet function, Crawford 207, Friday, March 21, 3:00 pm
9. Lunch N Learn – Early Alert Program – CETAL, Thursday, March 27, 12:00 pm
10. KCP Visiting Professor Lecture – Lucia Grossman, Microbial Marvels: Harnessing Nature’s Cleanup, Library, Thursday, March 27, 3:00 pm
11. Movie: Sing Sing, Arts Center, Thursday March 27 and Friday, March 28, 6:00 pm
12. Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra Performance, Arts Center, Saturday March 29, 6:00 pm
13. CFRE is hosting multiple external groups next month including the Michigan State University’s Fish Mortality class on April 1.