



Academic Affairs Update May 15, 2025

Spring Senior Research Symposium

On Friday, April 25th, 2025, the 9th Annual Senior Research Symposium was held in the Student Activity Center of Norris Center. A total of 124 LSSU senior students showcased their research accomplishments across a wide range of disciplines. The event featured 89 individual research posters and 8 team presentations, representing 14 academic schools and programs, including Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Creative Writing & English, Criminal Justice, Engineering, Geology, Kinesiology, Mathematics, Natural Resources, Nursing, Political Science, and Psychology.

College of Arts and Sciences

Student Accomplishments and Activities

- Wheelhouse Cannabis (DeTour, MI) performed multiple guest lectures for the Cannabis Production course this spring semester, culminating in a visit to the facility, hosted by owner Chase Horsburgh. Students benefited from these real-world learning opportunities in cannabis production.
- Anissa Overly (Forensic Chemistry) attended Aquaculture 2025 in New Orleans from March 6-10. She presented a talk titled "*Continued Analysis of Metal Ions in Closed Loop Aquaponics*" and received the new YSI Xylem Student Oral Presentation Award of \$1,000. She will be recognized in the upcoming World Aquaculture Society magazine, as well as on the US Aquaculture website.

Appointments to Boards and Professional Organizations

- Dr. Jason Garvon has been appointed to the Michigan Wildlife Council, representing individuals who have purchased hunting or fishing licenses on a regular basis, including at least once during each of the last 3 years. Dr. Garvon was recommended by a statewide sportsmen's organization for a term commencing April 25, 2025, and expiring March 31, 2029. The Michigan Wildlife Council was created to educate the public about the importance of wildlife conservation and how hunters and anglers help protect and preserve Michigan's great outdoor heritage for future generations.

Conference Presentations

- Dr. Courtney Weber presented "Empathy, Writing across the Curriculum, and History Courses" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication on April 12, 2025 in Baltimore, MD.

New Programs

- On April 17, 2025, the Curriculum Committee approved a Certificate in Indigenous Literatures and Cultures. This certificate provides students the opportunity to examine and advance their understanding of contemporary and past Indigenous experiences and to recognize and develop an awareness of diverse perspectives in Indigenous communities. The certificate now goes to the Board of Trustees for approval on May 16, 2025.
- On April 17, 2025, the Curriculum Committee approved the addition of an Artificial Intelligence Concentration for the Bachelor of Science in Geology program. Recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) have led to its growing use in solving a wide range of problems in the geosciences. LSSU geology faculty are incorporating AI applications into multiple courses and labs. They have created the new concentration by combining the breadth and depth of geology courses with computer science programming and AI courses. Students completing this degree will be well prepared to harness the power of AI to address societal issues such as critical minerals, ground water resources, water and soil contamination, geohazards, etc. The B.S. Geology - AI Concentration provides students with a solid foundation in AI and geology, which will enable them to address societal and geoscience challenges in this growing field.

Community Engagement

- On April 4, 2025, the Arts Center proudly hosted the very first *Soo's Got Talent*, an electrifying evening that brought together creativity, community pride, and local flair. A total of 12 enthusiastic groups from across the area auditioned for a chance to shine on stage. The event was a true collaboration, with the Arts Center Team providing hands-on support throughout the audition and show process. From singers and dancers to comedians and musicians, each act brought unique energy to the stage, making for a memorable night of entertainment. The community showed up in force to cheer on friends, family, and neighbors. The energy in the room was electric, and the success of this inaugural event has already sparked excitement for what next year's *Soo's Got Talent* might bring.
- The LSSU Movie Series, proudly supported by the Coopers, continued its mission of building community through the arts with a nostalgic screening of *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* at the Arts Center on April 17 and 19. This beloved '80s classic brought plenty of laughs and feel-good vibes, reminding us all of the joy in taking a well-deserved day off. Response from the audience was overwhelmingly positive. Students, staff, faculty, and community members expressed their appreciation for having these kinds of accessible, arts-centered experiences on campus.
- New Canon Theatre Co. recently hosted a powerful and transformative residency at LSSU, centered around the critically acclaimed play *An Iliad*, featuring celebrated performer and



Performing at Soo's Got Talent, Chet Mitchell commands the stage, balancing on a rolling board while juggling swords and spinning a plate in a breathtaking display of skill and control.

educator Dr. Patty Gallagher and composer/musician Jake Sorgen. This dynamic event, generously sponsored by the Charter School 3% Fund, brought together professional artistry, community engagement, and arts education in a truly meaningful way.

Dr. Gallagher led a workshop on *storytelling through physical embodiment* for local high school students from across the region. The workshop was not only engaging but created a space for freedom, creativity, and vulnerability. As one student shared, *"It was super fun and gave me a chance to ditch the second-hand embarrassment and enjoy myself in a judgment-free place, knowing that I wasn't the only one having fun and being silly!"* Another added, *"The workshop was very fun, it had lots of activities and I liked interacting with the other school."* The educational impact was clear — students walked away energized and inspired.

Across three public performances of *An Iliad*, we welcomed a total audience of 131. Students and general public attendees were roughly split 50/50. The community response was deeply



High school students in attendance for a workshop on storytelling through physical embodiment

enthusiastic. One audience member posted on Facebook: *"What I could say about this performance defies words. And if you know me, you know that is a big deal. Whatever you are doing tomorrow, cancel it. Change your plans."* They went on to add, *"GO TO THIS SHOW. You will be glad you did. Thank you, Noah Luce, for bringing something like this, a performance like this to Sault Ste. Marie."* The combination of a world-class theatrical performance, live music, and impactful educational outreach made this residency a resounding success.

- The Music Department completed its first ever weekend concert series with two performances. On April 26, the Shore Party Jazz Band debuted a new concert series "An Evening of Jazz" in the Superior Room. Effortlessly recreating the feel of a jazz club, attendees enjoyed a rousing variety of jazz band music spanning from the Big Band Era to Modern Jazz. On April 27, the annual Music Department Spring Concert showcased the talents of musicians from the LSSU Concert Choir and the Sault City Concert Band. Attendees enjoyed dramatic musical performances from both ensembles throughout the performance.



Music Director Casey Snyder conducting during the annual Music Department Spring Concert

Scholarship

- Professor Adam St. John (Theater) in collaboration with the American College Theatre Festival run by the Kennedy Center, responded to three university productions across the state during April. He gave notes and feedback to Ferris State University's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream", University of Michigan-Flint's production of "The Laramie Project", and Wayne State University's production of "Emilia".

New Faces

- Nick Gordon is the new Science Laboratory Coordinator at Lake Superior State University. A recent graduate of the university with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, Nick brings years of hands-on experience from his time as a student worker in the Superior Analytics Laboratory as well as assisting faculty with research throughout his undergraduate career. Nick's familiarity with university lab operations and understanding that scientific excellence requires smooth handling of logistics and other administrative laboratory requirements, positions him well to support both faculty and students in their teaching and research endeavors. When not in the lab, he enjoys fly fishing, amateur radio, and spending time with his wife and cat.

Publications and Creative Works

- Dr. Jun Li (Biology) was co-author on an [article](#) titled "Horizontal and vertical transmission of covert mortality nodavirus in the marine fish" in the journal *Aquaculture*.

College of Business, Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics

Student Accomplishments and Activities

- Seven Lukenda School of Business students traveled to New York City to attend the Quinnipiac Global Asset Management Education (GAME) Forum XIII held April 3-5 as part of the LSSU Investment Club. The team earned the award for Best Value Portfolio. This award recognizes the LSSU Investment Club's outstanding success in managing a student-run investment portfolio that achieved remarkable growth over the past year. The GAME Forum is the world's largest student-run financial conference, bringing together over 1,500 students from more than

130 colleges and universities to engage with industry leaders and peers. The team's accomplishment was featured in a [press release](#) and on social media.

Recruitment and Outreach

- On February 3, 2025, Professor David Leach attended a ground-breaking ceremony for North Central Michigan College's new \$22M career and technical education building in Petoskey, MI. He met with David Finley (President) and Gerald Brusher (Technology Director) and discussed the importance of developing articulation agreements with LSSU.
- On March 11, Professor David Leach attended a meeting with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) at North Central Michigan College (NCMC). As a member of the NCMC Technology and Trades Advisory Committee, he spoke about the importance of NCMC to LSSU programs in terms of transfer agreements and the importance of retaining students for engineering fields in our region.
- The School of Engineering and Technology hired student ambassadors to aid in recruiting efforts. The current LSSU students were matched with prospective students according to major, hometown region, etc. The student ambassadors wrote 203 letters in March and April to prospective students. Faculty also wrote 168 letters.

Community Engagement

- On February 13, 2025, the Schools of Engineering & Technology and Computer Science and Mathematics hosted the MiSTEM Advisory Committee regional quarterly meeting. Professor David Leach gave a presentation on how LSSU uses project-based learning in our curriculum, as well as how we partner with area companies and organizations to promote collaboration in STEM fields.

New Programs

- The Higher Learning Commission approved LSSU's Associate of Science in Mathematics degree. It is going to the Board of Trustees for approval on May 16, 2025.

Scholarship

- As a main part of his PhD research at Michigan Technological University (MTU), Professor David Leach is developing a quality control system to assess the production readiness of prototype components for use on military vehicles. He is also preparing an article on this work for the Ground Vehicle Systems Engineering and Technology Symposium, in collaboration with MTU's Advanced Power Systems Lab and the Department of Defense.
- On April 3, 2025, Dr. Paul Bartus presented a poster at the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Conference on Learning and Student Success (CLASS) in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The poster title is "Ensuring the Success of All Students through Collaborative Learning in a Database Course through Guided Laboratory Tasks."
- The School of Computer Science and Mathematics hosted the Mathematics Association of America Michigan section meeting at LSSU in April. Approximately 30 people attended,

including several LSSU students. Dr. Jennifer Gorman and Dr. Bridgette Russell gave an invited talk titled "Boosting Student Engagement in Entry Level Math Classes."

- In March, Dr. Rob Kipka gave an hour-long invited talk at the Grand Valley State Applied Mathematics Seminar. The title was *Discrete Models in Action*.

Abstract: In this talk we present case studies from conservation biology and scheduling that introduce and illustrate ideas from discrete mathematics. In the first, we model the dynamics of Michigan's wolf population using data from the Michigan DNR, where observations are available only annually. In the second, we solve a complex scheduling problem with over 100 variables restricted to binary values of 0 or 1. These models illustrate the usefulness of discrete mathematics in real-world, data-informed contexts.

MBA Program Update

- Our current MBA students at Lake Superior State University continue to impress with their dedication, diverse professional backgrounds, and collaborative spirit. Below are some comments from our current students.
 - "With my time heavily invested in my professional work, I can learn and build at my own pace," says Joseph N., (Executive Director at Chippewa Luce Mackinac Community Action Agency) an LSSU alumnus and current Executive Director. "The program maintains the essential classroom roundtable feel, even online. It's been both resourceful and impactful for my career."
 - "The focus on discussions and essay-style responses fosters critical thinking and real-world application," adds Paolo D., (Purchasing/Logistics Algoma Steel) another LSSU alumnus. "The supportive and cooperative culture among students and faculty has been truly motivating."
 - "Courses like *Customer Funnel in a Digital World* and *Finance for Managers* have significantly enhanced my understanding of business practices," shares Molly R., (a defense contractor for the United States Military) and MBA student. "Studying on my own time gave me the flexibility to maintain my job while completing assignments."
- Efforts to build the new cohort for fall 2025 are well underway. As of April, we are thrilled to have 11 students accepted into the new cohort. This dynamic group of aspiring leaders comes from a wide range of industries. They are ready to elevate their careers and make a lasting impact. Recruitment efforts will continue over the summer as we aim to launch a vibrant and engaging second cohort of talented professionals.

College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education

Student Accomplishments and Activities

- Four students in School of Natural Resources were awarded LSSU Undergraduate Research fund awards this spring. Cody Ogden, Fisheries and Wildlife Management senior, was awarded \$500 to support his attendance at a scientific conference. Cody will be traveling to Puerto Rico next month to present his senior research at the Society for Freshwater Sciences annual meeting. Gwen Phillips and Ellie Prow, Fisheries and Wildlife Management seniors, were both

awarded \$500 to support their presentations at the Michigan American Fisheries Society conference in Marquette, MI in February 2025. Breanna McFarlane, fisheries and wildlife management junior, received funding for supplies to support her research using camera traps to collect data on deer movement patterns in relation to predation pressure.

- Lauren Schagel (Fisheries and Wildlife Management major) was awarded the Best Student Poster award at the Michigan Chapter of the Wildlife Society meeting this spring, which included graduate and undergraduate students from across the state. Lauren is mentored by Dr. Jill Witt.
- Seven current teacher education students in their final student teaching semester completed action research projects based on topics of concern in their teaching: belonging in inclusive classrooms, clarity in school technology policies, and supporting struggling students in the general education classroom. The students developed research questions, reviewed the research literature, devised data collection methods, analyzed the results, and presented their findings to an audience.
- In *TEAC 423: Partnerships & Classroom Management*, 24 students in teacher education designed Place-based Curriculum projects as the culmination of their course. The students learned how to design curriculum around essential questions that link to authentic assessments to develop projects. Using topics that brought together places across Michigan, the students planned projects that would engage students in place. On April 24, 2025, students presented their projects to an audience of students and faculty.
- Mr. Jason Smith (Bay Mills Indian Community) and Dr. Kevin Kapuscinski co-led a fish tagging workshop at CFRE that was attended by students and staff. Participants received hands-on experience in surgical implantation of acoustic transmitters in fish, which will support grant-funded research conducted by CFRE personnel and students and introduces our students to a unique skill in the field of fisheries.
- This month, CFRE supported several novel learning opportunities for LSSU students. Drew Heckman and Beth Christiansen worked with 27 students in the School of Education's integrated math/science methods courses, guiding them through strategies to incorporate data-driven investigation into place-based learning experiences for K-6th grade students. CFRE also hosted Dr. Mackey's *REC 101: Introduction to Recreation/Leisure Service* class. During the visit, Education and Outreach Specialists, Michelle Visser and Beth Christiansen, along with student Ryan Quackenbush, explained how they develop and implement interpretive programs. Students also explored and discussed exhibit design in the discovery center.
- The School of Education presented four "Cupcakes, Cookies, and Conversations" sessions throughout the Spring 2025 semester that attracted students from both elementary and secondary education programs. Approximately 20 students attended throughout the semester to engage with faculty on issues related to teacher preparation.
- The School of Education students began forming a Student Education Club with officers representing the elementary and secondary programs as well as our Canadian students. The club members have identified officers and will begin operating as an official organization in Fall 2025.

- Student Teaching assignments are underway. Next fall School of Education will have twenty-five students completing their Student Teaching experiences in Michigan and Canada.
- CFRE partnered with the Fisheries and Wildlife Club to host a chili cook-off and a Great Lakes trivia contest at Considine Hall and over 30 students and staff participated.

Grants

- Dr. Ashley Moerke and Dr. Kevin Kapuscinski were awarded a \$156,000 contract with the US Coast Guard to support training and research opportunities for USCG Cadets each summer for the next five years. The funds will support faculty summer salary, supplies, and lab use at CFRE.
- Dr. Ashley Moerke was awarded a continuing annual grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for sea lamprey control efforts in the St. Marys River. The funding supports student employees at the CFRE fish hatchery and gives students experience working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Dr. Jon Doubek was awarded a \$91,000 grant with USGS through a Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU), which will provide support to technicians and students for processing larval fish samples and genetic analysis.
- Dr. Jill Witt was awarded a \$2,100 Scientist Fellowship at the University of Michigan Biological Station to continue her research on how global climate change is affecting small mammal populations in Northern Michigan.

Fundraising/Gifts

- A gift was made to CFRE to support a student internship for a Teacher Education student to gain experiences in outreach and education at CFRE. This will be the first initiative that provides financial support for students in the School of Education and CFRE.
- Victory Cruise Lines, who signed a contract with CFRE to provide private tours for their guests on 34 cruise visits this summer, donated funding for a spotting scope and tripod that will be used by all visitors to CFRE.
- CFRE is working with the Advancement Office to establish a funding opportunity that would allow “friends of CFRE” to purchase an acrylic fish that will be displayed on an external wall of CFRE.

Publications

- Schmidt, AG, IM Anderson, R Bruel, RJ Chapina, JP Doubek, S Fiorini, SK Goldfarb, G Lacroix, HL Wander, S Zigic, JD Stockwell. 2025. Impacts of hypoxia and planktivory on crustacean and rotifer diel vertical and horizontal migration behaviors. *Hydrobiologia* 852(10), 2687-2707.
- Pu G, K Shchapov, NJT Pearce, K Bowen, A Bramburger, A Camilleri, H Carrick, JD Chaffin, W Cody, ML Coleman, WJS Currie, DC Depew, JP Doubek, R Eveleth, M Fitzpatrick, PW Glyshaw, CM Godwin, RM McKay, M Munawar, H Niblock, M Quintanilla, M Rennie, MW Sand,

KJ Schraitle, MR Twiss, DG Uzarski, HA Vanderploeg, TJ Vick-Majors, JA Westrick, BA Wheelock, MA Xenopoulos, A Zastepa, T Ozersky. 2025. The Great Lakes Winter Grab: Limnological data from a multi-institutional winter sampling campaign on the Laurentian Great Lakes. *Limnology and Oceanography Letters* 10(1), 37-61.

- Tran-Khac V, JP Doubek, V Patil, JD Stockwell, R Adrian, C-W Chang, G Dur, A Lewandowska, J Rusak, N Salmaso, D Straile, SJ Thackeray, P Venail, R Bhattacharya, J Brentrup, R Bruel, H Feuchtmayr, MO Gessner, H-P Grossart, BW Ibelings, S Jacquet, S MacIntyre, SS Matsuzaki, E Nodine, P Nöges, L Rudstam, F Soulignac, P Verburg, P Znachor, T Zohary, O Anneville. Using long-term ecological datasets to unravel the impacts of short-term meteorological disturbances on phytoplankton communities. *Freshwater Biology*, in Press.
- H Zhao, M Yang, B Chen, B Liu, B Zhang. 2025. Transport of microplastic-antibiotic co-contaminants in tidal zones. *Environmental Pollution*, 372, 126072.

Conference Presentations

- Dr. Seth McCall and colleagues presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. His presentation was titled “Designing with teachers for project-based learning”.
- Dr. Kandel gave a virtual talk entitled “Harmful Algal Bloom Study in Small Inland Lakes: Chlorophyll-a and Microcystin” in 64th Annual Conference of Michigan Lakes and Streams Association on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

Honors and Awards

- Students from the School of Natural Resources were awarded the following scholarships:
 - *William & Pamela Bacheler Family Fisheries & Wildlife Scholarship* - Ryan Quackenbush, Jordyn Reed, Lauren Schagel, and Alana Schofield
 - *Michigan Charter Boat Association* - Ryan Quackenbush
 - *Detroit Area Steelheaders Fisheries Scholarship* - Alana Schofield
 - *Gilbert & Maxine Gleason Fisheries and Wildlife Scholarship* - Kennedy Konkle
 - *Hiawatha Sportsman's Club Fisheries & Wildlife Scholarship* - Carli Huhni
 - *Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited Fisheries Scholarship* - Hunter Eurich
 - *Anglers of the AuSable* - Hunter Eurich
 - *Izaak Walton League of America Lock City Chapter Endowed Scholarship* - Hunter Eurich
 - *Kim & Nancy Strawe Fisheries & Wildlife Scholarship* - Jordyn Reed
 - *Christopher Reinke Memorial Endowment Award* - Sam Tober
 - *Joseph and Bonnie Halvorson Memorial Scholarship* - Lauren Schagel
- Outstanding Student awards
 - Faculty from the School of Education selected Danielle Cabanaw as the Outstanding Student in Education, Brooke Landis for Elementary Education, and Ashley Stille for Early Childhood Education.

- Faculty from the School of Natural Resources selected Sam Rimatzki as the Outstanding Student for Conservation Biology, Abbi Schrader for Fisheries and Wildlife Management, and Alayna Schulte for Parks and Recreation.

Academic Program Successes

- The Geospatial Technology Associate Degree Program has been approved as a New Program for Federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) Funding by Michigan's Workforce Development- Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO). Specialty and support courses within the programs are now eligible for annual financial support for software, supplies, and equipment that will help maintain state-of-the-art resources for students in this area.

Recruitment and Outreach

- CFRE Fish hatchery hosted six prospective student tours along with the Sault Chamber of Young Professionals (11), Sault College's (Ontario) Natural Resource program (12), and Mott Community College transfer students (10).
- Dr. Ashley Moerke, Dr. Jennifer Fager, and Dr. Kevin Kapuscinski wrote personal letters to over 200 admitted students to CoGLEE as part of an increased recruitment effort.
- Over 20 LSSU students participated in the annual Atlantic Salmon fin clipping as well as 7 students from the Career and Technical Education class held at CFRE. Dr. Kapuscinski's fish culture lab spent the day clipping fins as well. Student workers and volunteers helped clip over 20,000 Atlantics, which allows us to later identify these fish as stocked by LSSU. Fin clipping is a great skill to practice and can provide necessary experience handling fish and chemical immobilization.
- Three students from the School of Natural Resources (Torin Miller, Sam Rimatzki, and Abbi Schrader) led natural resource activities for over 20 seventh grade students visiting from Pickford schools. The middle school students were engaged and gave our students rave reviews.
- CFRE hosted 53 ninth-graders from Grand Traverse Academy. Education and Outreach staff, including three fisheries and wildlife students, introduced these students to research, educational, and hatchery activities.
- Dr. Ashley Moerke is working with Gear Up to create a fall CTE day that will bring high school students from across the state to LSSU to highlight Teacher Education, Natural Resource, and Engineering programs. If successful, the program will be expanded to include more areas.
- Drew Heckman and Michelle Visser visited Les Cheneaux Schools and led water-quality activities for 21 ninth grade students, helping prepare them for a field day and MiWaterNet sensor installation in May.
- Approximately 63 preK-4th grade students and 20 adults participated in three school programs for Brimley Homeschool group, Kinross Preschool, and Lincoln Elementary 4th grade.

- Heidi Rife led updates for articulation agreements for the Teacher Education programs with Northcentral Michigan College and Bay College to enhance transfer pathways.

Publicity

- As a Thriving Earth Exchange's volunteer scientist, Hari Kandel provided another 5-page memo analyzing hydrologic perspectives of flooding issues in a proposed development site in Pima County, Arizona to the Bear Canyon Neighborhood Association to strengthen their argument opposing the rezoning of the proposed development site in Tucson, Arizona. His contribution was stated in the Mayor and Council public hearing in both late March and April.

Community Engagement

- Until the end of May, the Great Lake Discovery Center is open on the first and third weekends of the month for a story and craft or special program. These activities brought 143 visitors (98 adults and 45 children) in April 2025. Activities were developed and facilitated by CFRE Education & Outreach staff and student assistants (Shelby Eavou, Alaina Kecskes, Brynn Jannetta, and Ryan Quackenbush)
 - April 5, 2025, story and craft—Emerald Ash Borers by Alicia Klepeis: three students from Dr. Witt's *NRES 304: The Human Environment* class partnered with CFRE staff to plan and facilitate this event
 - April 12, 2025, Earth Day Celebration in partnership with the Girl Scouts.
 - April 19, 2025, Earth Day Part 2: Native plant card game and recycling game, bird-friendly birdhouse plans to take home
- Drew Heckman arranged a virtual guest presentation by Shelby Brunner of the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS), which was attended by both the CTE class and a Rudyard science class. Shelby shared about her career path and described how GLOS obtains and communicates valuable information about conditions in/on the Great Lakes.
- CFRE obtained two new displays for the Great Lakes Discovery Center. One is a tank that will house European frog-bit, an invasive wetland plant in our region, and the second is a touch tank that will have native and invasive mussels side-by-side, so visitors can learn about the importance of native mussels and the impacts of invasive mussels on the Great Lakes. Both new exhibits were externally funded by grants.

Operations and Infrastructure Projects

- LSSU signed a fourth MOU with VESi, a third party continuing education provider that will extend School of Education's reputation and provide continuing education opportunities now in Michigan, Florida, Massachusetts, and West Virginia. Not only does this have the potential to increase LSSU's visibility, it also will help increase external revenue.

Appointments to Boards and Professional Organizations

- Dr. Ashley Moerke serves on the Council of Fellows for the Cooperative Institute of Great Lakes Research and participated in their annual meeting. She is also a co-author on an upcoming article in the Journal of Great Lakes Research that highlights the importance of Great Lakes research at a time where federal funding is diminishing collaborations and funding.

Scholarship Activity

- Dr. Yong Zeng led a discussion for the Center of Engaged Teaching and Learning “Lunch and Learn” series where he discussed “Empowering students with Artificial Intelligence (AI)”. Dr. Zeng shared his ideas about how college instructors can guide students to use AI tools in positive and responsible ways while addressing key concerns such as academic integrity, critical thinking, and ethical use. He also led discussions on ways to discover practical strategies, classroom ideas, and solutions for integrating AI tools thoughtfully into students' learning.
- CFRE hosted a 2-day National Science Foundation Climate Governance workshop that engaged over 20 international ecological and social scientists trying to develop approaches to help communities deal with changing climates (e.g., infrastructure related to flooding). Dr. Ashley Moerke was a participant and she, along with Silas Dunn (CFRE research technician) provided afternoon guided tours of research projects led by CFRE. Brian Chapman (city manager) and Rob Laitinen (county road commission manager) also participated in a panel discussion and a site visit.
- CFRE hosted two visiting researchers from Memorial University in Newfoundland, Canada for a week. The researchers were here as part of a collaboration investigating how microbes in the Great Lakes break down oil.

Advisory Board Activity

- Faculty of the School of Natural Resources have been working to establish advisory committees for the Conservation Biology, Fisheries and Wildlife Management, and Outdoor Recreation and Leadership BS programs. Advisory committees will be established this summer, with in-person meetings co-occurring with Great Lakes State Weekend.
- Faculty in the School of Education have had regular meetings with advisory committee members from the EUP Intermediate School District. This feedback is vital to strengthening the education programs to meet regional needs and it supports School of Education's accreditation needs.

College of Health and Emergency Responders

Student Accomplishments and Activities

- Interprofessional Simulation: Students in the Nursing, Paramedic, Criminal Justice, and Fire Science programs collaborated with LSSU faculty and staff, and community first responder personnel to care for simulated patients at the Superior Simulation Center in April. Students cared for multiple patients from a simulated mass casualty event from onset of the accident, to

transport and care of patients in the simulated hospital. Students were able to apply the clinical learning from their respective programs as well as focus on the critical nature of cross-professional communication for a successful experience. This event demonstrates the best of our academic programs, as well as the collaboration between multiple faculty and staff members across these programs in our university.

- *NURS 432: Nursing of Populations* senior Nursing students partnered with Kinesiology Club students and Criminal Justice students to host a Public Health fair on Safety. This event took place in the Taffy Abel Arena on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 from 6pm to 9pm. Entrance was free to the event with food and mocktails provided. This event was very well attended and attendees enjoyed games, music, education, and a chance to win prizes.

Academic Program Successes

- Nine of the nine graduates from the LSSU Fire Science program achieved a 100% pass rate on the Michigan Firefighter 1 and 2 state exam. The Michigan Firefighter 1 and 2 state exam consists of a written portion and a practical skills portion, assessing knowledge and skills required for firefighting. The written exam covers fire science theory, emergency medical procedures, and fire safety, while the practical exam evaluates hands-on firefighting tasks.

Conference Presentations

- Professors in the Psychology program (Dr. Olson-Pupek, Dr. Searight, and Prof. Bowlby) traveled to Kalamazoo College on April 4-5 with 8 Psychology Senior students who presented their Senior Research projects at the Michigan Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference. The following students presented: Madison Anderson, Rhiannon Haraway, Alex Menard, Skylar Lamma, Makenzie Jacobson, Kara Mosher, Sawyer Dowd, and Alexis Tyslicki

Upcoming Events

- Michigan Historic Preservation Network Conference, Arts Center, Thursday May 15, 9:00 am
- Michigan Historic Preservation Network Conference, Arts Center, Friday May 16, 6-9pm
- Admissions Open House, Arts Center, Saturday May 17, 8:00 am
- CFRE will host Engineer's Day on June 27 from 10am – 4pm. This event usually draws over 500 people in a single day. Additionally, this year the City will also have its grand opening for Alford Park and the Carbide Dock along CFRE's waterfront.