



# LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY

## Advancement Report May 15, 2026

### Agenda Item #1: Dashboard

Information

Action

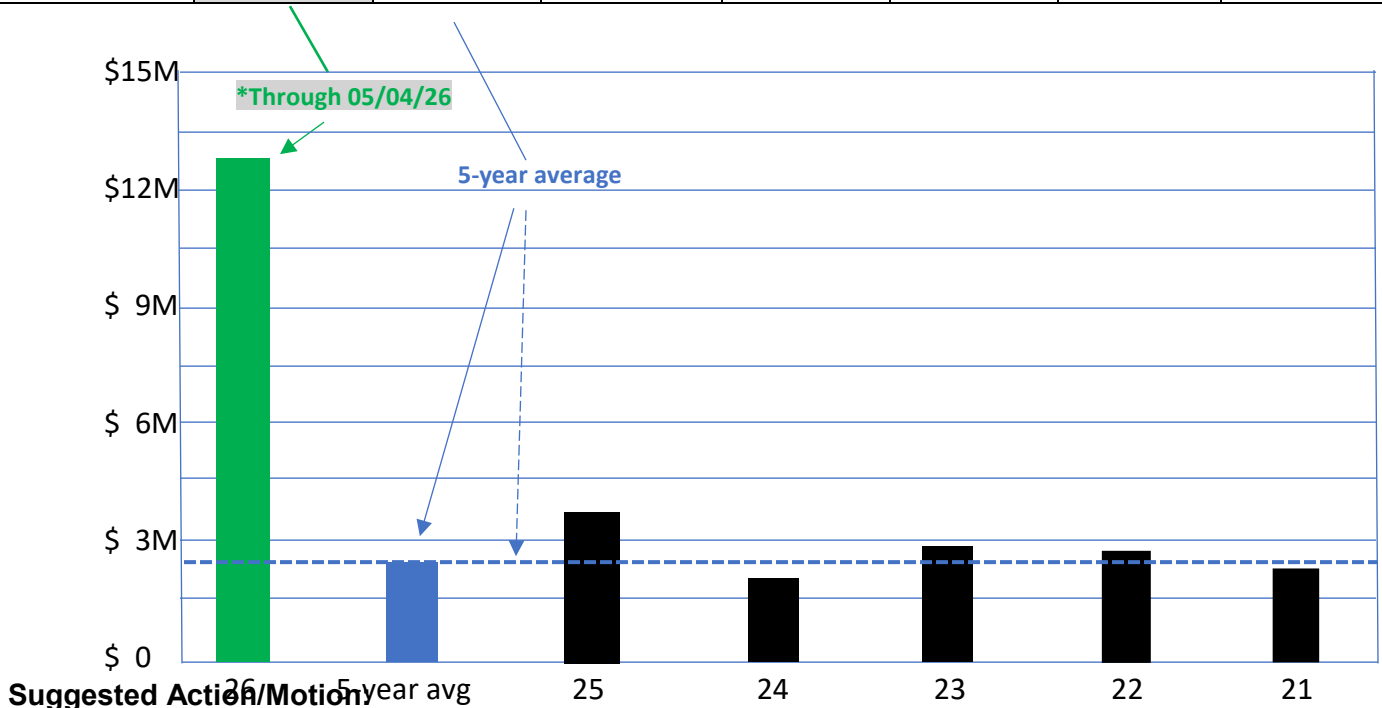
Discussion

**Purpose:** The dashboard below compares **current fiscal year fundraising** to the previous five years by quarter. The **five-year average** is also included for comparison.

Note: Financial data follows CASE industry standards and represents cash gifts, and documented pledges and estate gifts.

### Dashboard 1 ~ Total Fundraising Five Year comparison: Year to Date (YTD) by Quarter (Q#)

Fiscal Year (7/1 – 6/30)	To date 2026	'21 – '25 5-year avg	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
YTD							
July - Sept Q1	2,266,415	416,459	148,898	277,550	450,901	586,835	618,111
Oct – Dec Q2	390,683	543,577	527,192	241,543	289,855	1,347,312	311,982
Jan – Mar Q3	4,914,036	443,067	169,406	428,669	530,640	573,531	513,088
Apr – June Q4	6,089,319	1,187,626	2,785,324	717,111	1,643,509	198,225	593,960
	✓						
Total	13,660,453	2,590,729	\$3,630,820	1,664,873	2,914,905	2,705,903	2,037,142



No Action Required

**President's Recommendation:**

N/A



## Advancement Report May 15, 2026

### Agenda Item #2: Major Gifts, Planned Giving, and Grants Update

Information

Action

Discussion

#### Background:

##### Major Gifts:

Major Gifts are defined by LSSU Advancement as gifts received in excess of \$10,000. The following summary represents the recent major gift activity in support of the University's current key initiatives since the July, 2025 meeting.

An anonymous \$3,700,000 pledge was made in primary support of the Taffy Abel ice rink renovations. This support represents a major investment in campus infrastructure improvement.

An anonymous estate gift of \$2M was documented.

An anonymous donor made a \$26,000 gift through an IRA QCD (Qualified Charitable Deduction), establishing the *Mechanical Engineering and Nursing Achievement Scholarship* endowment. This fund will support a student enrolled in either the Mechanical Engineering or Bachelor of Science Nursing program.

A generous donor gift was made of \$43,465 through an IRA Distribution for a Fisheries & Wildlife Scholarship (\$22,748), the LSSU Track and Cross Country Team (\$10,000) and the Bud Mansfield Student Emergency Fund (\$12,982).

John and Mary Campbell made a generous gift of \$40,000 to their named endowment, the *John and Mary Campbell Scholarship*, which will benefit incoming freshmen who are entering the LSSU School of Engineering. The Campbells attended LSSU in the early 1970s, where scholarships played an important role in their education. This endowment reflects their desire to give back by supporting local students and strengthening both the university and the community.

Central Savings Bank made a generous gift of \$14,966 in support of their named scholarship that awards a full tuition scholarship to a student majoring in Finance and Economics or Accounting.

### Planned Giving:

Planned gifts are contributions that require advance planning and are typically made through a donor's estate plan. These gifts are made during a donor's lifetime but take effect later, often after their passing or they involve the donor retaining some benefit such as lifetime income. Examples include bequests in a will, charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities, or non-cash assets like real estate or retirement funds.

An increased communication cadence is underway. We are actively working with Crescendo to enhance our planned giving page and in a recent outreach three donors requested additional information about estate gifts. Moving forward we will engage all respondents in a timely way.

This fiscal year, Lake Superior State University has documented:

Q1 – estate gifts

\$1,000,000 TBD

Q3 – estate gifts

\$1,000,000 TBD

\$ 800,000 Scholarship support

\$ 150,000 Laker Hockey Challenge

Q4 – estate gifts

\$2,000,000 scholarship support

### Grants:

To restart grant writing efforts, fifty six prospective grant making organizations were identified by a consultant based on LSSU's stated strategic priorities. They have been prioritized by proposal date and subject.

Next steps:

Q4 - The first two proposals are being submitted with a combined value of almost \$300,000.

Q4 and beyond:

- Three proposals valued up to \$1M are being vetted by the deans.
- Four proposal outlines are being constructed for review by the provost.
- Ongoing coordination with the provost, deans, faculty, and staff for proposal content.

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

No Action Required

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

N/A



**Advancement Report**  
**May 15, 2026**

**Agenda Item #3: Annual Fundraising & Alumni Relations Update**

Information

Action

Discussion

**Purpose:**

This agenda item provides a summary of the LSSU Advancement’s recent Annual Fundraising and LSSU Alumni Relations activities.

**Background:**

Annual Fundraising activities provide financial support for university initiatives and assist in the identification of potential major gift donors. Alumni Relations activities and communications facilitate the initial engagement of alumni and friends to LSSU beginning the cultivation process for joining the Alumni Association and participating in future giving.

**LSSU Advancement Annual Fundraising Activities:**

**Laker Club and Athletic Related Activity**

Fiscal Year	Gross Revenue	Number of Donors
2025-26 YTD	\$80,851	149
2024-25	\$78,954	126
2023-24	\$61,819	120
2022-23	\$49,802	85
2021-22	\$54,411	113
2020-21	\$50,855	103



**Laker Meal Sponsor Program**

The 2025-26 campaign was a resounding success adding over \$20,000 to the Laker Club campaign. The program has made an impact across all sports, and has increased both the number of donors and revenue attributed to Laker Club.

### **Laker Hockey Challenge**

LSSU has launched a \$1,500,000 challenge match campaign on the heels of the initial \$1,500,000 anonymous gift to Laker Hockey. Over \$1,350,000 has been committed towards the campaign. The majority of this is through estate gifts, with the remainder coming through cash commitments. The campaign is a part of celebrating 60 years of Laker Hockey throughout the course of the 2026-27 season.



### **Annual Lake State Golf Classic**

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake State Classic will take place on Friday, August 7th at Wild Bluff. The “Classic Bash” will be returning once again this year at Wild Bluff on Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. The Classic has sold out for three consecutive years, and we expect that it will sell out for a 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

Sign up your team, or commit to your sponsorships through the link below.

<https://advancement.lssu.edu/lake-state-classic-2026/>

**The 2026 event will be on Friday, August 7, 2026.**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Gross Revenue</b>	<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>Golfers</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>2025</b>	\$55,872	\$43,045	*144	Wild Bluff
<b>2024</b>	\$50,620	\$38,604	*144	Wild Bluff
<b>2023</b>	\$52,892	\$35,931	*144	Wild Bluff
<b>2022</b>	\$45,450	\$34,315	110	Wild Bluff
<b>2021</b>	\$41,686	\$34,161	108	Wild Bluff

\* Sold Out

### **Laker Women’s Basketball Golf Outing**

The inaugural Laker Women’s Basketball golf outing hosted over 120 golfers and netted over \$18,000 at the Sault Ste Marie, Country Club on Saturday, September 20, 2025. The 2026 outing will be held on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

## LSSU Annual Fund and Alumni Related Activity:

### Superior Give-a-thon

The 2026 Superior Give-a-Thon started February, 16 and will run through May 1. The student callers were able to connect with alumni and donors. The Superior Give-a-Thon was supported by email and social media to further connect with our supporters, raise campaign awareness, and expand our reach.

Fiscal Year	Gross Revenue	Number of Donors
2025-26	\$21,690	159
2024-25	\$19,175	171
2023-24	\$19,925	143
2022-23	\$20,395	144
2021-22	\$16,485	137
2020-21	\$15,860	109
2019-20	\$8,971	104

← Results to date

## Alumni Association

### Event Recaps



#### Laker Basketball Alumni Weekend - February 21, 2026

LSSU Basketball Alumni Weekend took place on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, as the Lakers took on GVSU, with many of our basketball alum in attendance. Members of the '75-'76 men's GLIAC regular season championship team – celebrating 50 years; and members of the '95-'96 men's GLIAC Tournament Championship – celebrating 30 years – were recognized on court during halftime. A post-game social followed at Moloney's Alley, sponsored by Rick and Sue Fitzpatrick/Pingatore Cleaners.



#### Lake State After Hours – April 29, 2026

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Lake State After Hours took place at Moloney's on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. This year's event featured Laker Trivia hosted by Steve Habusta and Matt Pocket, and was the kick-off celebration for Commencement celebrating our 2026 graduates



#### Golden Graduate Reunion - May 1-2, 2026

The Golden Graduate Society gathering welcomed 11 new Golden Graduates and 8 returning members, who participated in the University's Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 2. The Society honors alumni who graduated at least fifty years ago (1976 or earlier). The honored class, along with those attending the reunion for the first time, received commemorative medallions during a special brunch held at the Barch Center for Fresh Water Research on Friday, May 1.

## Upcoming Events



### **LSSU Day at the Tigers – Saturday, July 25, 2026**

LSSU Day at the Tigers is planned for July 25th at 1pm vs Kansas City Royals. A pregame social will take place prior to the game. RSVP for the pre-game social and purchase game tickets at <https://alumni.lssu.edu/lake-state-day-at-the-tigers/>



### **Lake State Classic – August 7, 2026**

The 37th Annual Lake State Classic is set for Friday, August 7 at Wild Bluff. Once again, the Thursday night “Classic Bash” will return on August 6 at Wild Bluff, offering a great opportunity to connect with LSSU supporters and raise additional funds for Laker Athletics. Register your team or become a sponsor here: <https://advancement.lssu.edu/lake-state-classic-2026/>

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

No Action Required

### **President’s Recommendation:**

N/A



**Advancement Report**  
**May 15, 2026**

**Agenda Item #4: Legislative Affairs update**

Information                       Action                       Discussion

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this submittal is to provide a summary of state legislation related to LSSU.

**Tracking**

**Budget**

Timing: With elections this fall there is hope a budget will be reached by July 1 to facilitate elected officials returning home to campaign. Negotiations will begin with the Governors recommendations set and budgets passed by the House and Senate.

Key LSSU budget issues: Include the Tuition Incentive Program (TIP), Reconnect+, and Charter School 3% funding restrictions in the Senate budget. Prison program funding is also being watched. The ITW (Indian Tuition Waiver) has been fully funded in the Governor’s recommendations and both the House and Senate budgets.

Next steps: Work with our elected officials to support LSSU’s best interests.

Key date: May 15 CRC (Consensus Revenue Conference). Economists meet to determine how much will be available in the state budget.

**Capital Outlay –** Speculation there may be movement in Dec of 2026 after the election (lame duck session). A significant hurdle is the need for a new bond cap. SB875, sponsored by Sen McCann, has funding for a construction start but not enough for completion of all projects. Either a new bond cap or an alternative funding source would be required.

The following dashboard provides LSSU’s recent state capital outlay history. Capital outlays traditionally provide 75% of a project, with the remaining 25% raised through a capital campaign.

FY27 \$30M CASET Request	FY21 \$8.8M Barch CFRE Approved	FY18 \$9M Considine Approved	FY05 \$11.5M Arts Center Approved
--------------------------------	---------------------------------------	------------------------------------	---

LDSI proposal – A \$1M LDSI (Legislatively Directed Spending Item) proposal was submitted through Rep Fairbairn and approved in the House budget. The Senate will now review the budget request and if approved it will move to the Governor to be signed. The proposal addresses infrastructure needs for utility upgrades and IT security.

**Suggested Action/Motion:**

No Action Required

**President's Recommendation:**

N/A



**Advancement Report**  
**May 15, 2026**

**Agenda Item #5: Authorization for Special Liquor License Applications**

Information

Action

Discussion

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this action item is to authorize the President or designee to apply for and obtain Special Liquor Licenses from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for University-sponsored events, and to take any related administrative actions necessary to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

**Background:**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATIONS FOR SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSES**

WHEREAS, from time-to-time Lake Superior State University hosts events and activities at which the service of alcoholic beverages may be appropriate and permitted under Michigan law; and  
WHEREAS, such events may require the issuance of a Special License by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Lake Superior State University authorizes the President of the University, or the President’s designee, to prepare, sign, and submit applications and supporting documentation necessary to obtain Special Licenses from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for University-sponsored events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President or designee is authorized to take any additional administrative actions necessary to comply with the requirements of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission related to such licenses.

Adopted by the Lake Superior State University Board of Trustees on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

**Suggested Action/Motion:**

Action Required

**President’s Recommendation:**

The President recommends that the Board approve the proposed resolution authorizing applications for special liquor licenses as presented.