



LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY

Academic Affairs Update May 15, 2026

Academic Affairs

- Commencement was held on Saturday, May 2, celebrating 359 eligible graduates, with 273 walking across the stage. Details of the events and student awards are listed in the [commencement program](#). Thank you to all of the staff, faculty, and students whose dedication and hard work made the day a memorable occasion for our graduates, their families, and friends. A special thank you to the Commencement Committee whose year-round work helps make this special day run smoothly.



(Left to Right) Prof. Koral Brady, recipient of the 2024-2025 Distinguished Teaching Award, serving as commencement marshal for the 64th Annual Commencement Ceremony, and Alana Miller-Schofield, delivering the Graduating Student Speaker address.

- Dr. Jonathan Doubek was honored as the 2025-2026 Distinguished Teaching Award recipient at a Distinguished Teacher Gathering on May 1st and at Commencement on May 2nd. Dr. Doubek is an Associate Professor in the School of Natural Resources, who was selected by a committee of eleven outstanding seniors and five previous winners.



- Students, faculty, staff, and visitors filled the Arbuckle Student Activity Center on Friday, April 24, as 114 students showcased 83 capstone projects at the 10th Annual Campus-Wide Senior Research Symposium. Students presented their posters and confidently engaged with attendees, answering questions about their work.



College of Arts and Sciences

Student Accomplishments and Activities

- Kyle Marinkovich, founder and CEO of Northern Diversified Solutions (Burnsville, MN), visited campus on April 9. He met with students to discuss internships and the Minnesota cannabis market, and presented the work of Northern Diversified Solutions to students in Dr. Michelle Jarvie's Protected Horticulture class.
- On April 17, the School of Chemistry, Environmental, and Geosciences held its Senior Seminar oral presentations with eight students from Chemistry, Forensic Chemistry, Cannabis Chemistry and Environmental Science presenting their research. The talks drew over 120 people.
- Three graduates have been selected as American Chemical Society sub-division outstanding undergraduate students: Matthew Triber (Cannabis Chemistry) in Analytical Chemistry, Ellie Angel (Chemistry) in Inorganic Chemistry, and Tiffany Miller-Schroden (Cannabis Chemistry) in Organic Chemistry.

Grants

- Dr. Jason Garvon was awarded \$340,000 in funding for Piping Plover research through 2029, marking his 20th field season working with plovers. His first (2007) was as a volunteer, supervising two students working at Vermilion. Currently, Dr. Garvon has primary responsibility for five EUP sites (Vermilion, Grand Marais, Gulliver, Port Inland, Point Aux Chenes), in addition to assisting the Seney National Wildlife Refuge with Whitefish Point as needed. Funding to date on the project, spanning the past 19 years, is \$1.84 million, which has provided 85 student jobs working with this endangered species and partner organizations (US Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Minnesota, National Park Service, Department of Natural Resources, Smithsonian, Detroit Zoo, The Nature Conservancy and Little Traverse Conservancy). Many of these students have gone on to graduate school or successful careers in biology, natural resources,

conservation law enforcement, other non-governmental organizations, or state and county agency work.

Scholarship

- Assistant Professor of Theatre and Director of the Arts Center, Noah Lucé, was invited to serve as a featured speaker and workshop facilitator at the prestigious Stevenson School in Pebble Beach, California, for their Entertainment Symposium. Attending also in his capacity as Associate Artistic Director of New Canon Theatre Co., Lucé led a dynamic workshop examining the vital role of theatre and live performance in an era increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence. The session highlighted how the performing arts cultivate empathy, creativity, critical thinking, and authentic human connection. These qualities remain essential and irreplaceable in a rapidly evolving technological world. Lucé's invitation reflects both his growing professional reputation and the continued visibility of LSSU faculty as leaders in arts innovation and contemporary cultural dialogue.



Professor Noah Lucé stands alongside students from the prestigious Stevenson School in Pebble Beach, California, as part of a workshop for their Entertainment Symposium

- Over the past month, Professor Adam St. John served as a distinguished respondent for the American College Theatre Festival, lending his expertise to the thoughtful evaluation of five university theatre productions across the state. Through incisive analysis and carefully considered critique, he provided meaningful, constructive feedback aimed at elevating both the artistic vision and execution of each production.
 - March 27th — "Cymbeline" at Central Michigan University
 - March 28th — "Five Mile Lake" at Grand Valley State University
 - April 18th — "9 to 5: the Musical" at Northern Michigan University
 - April 24th — "Paradise Lost" at Wayne State University
 - April 25th — "You for Me for You" at Hope College

Publication & Creative Works

- Dr. Alexei Iretski published an article titled "Coordination chemistry of nitro Co(III)porphyrins: six-coordinate complexes with organic disulfide and trisulfide ligands" in the *Journal of Coordination Chemistry*.

- Professor Adam St. John recently completed his 10-part writing series, “The 10 ComMANNdments – The Filmmaking Styles, Tenets, and Traits of Michael Mann,” published through *InSession Film*. The series offers an in-depth exploration of director Michael Mann’s distinctive cinematic style. (<https://insessionfilm.com/op-edthe-10-commandments-the-filmmaking-styles-tenets-and-traits-of-michael-mann-part-1/>)

Recruitment and Outreach

- On April 8, Professor Adam St. John led an improvisation and acting workshop for students from Charlton Heston Academy. The session focused on making strong performance choices, developing improvisational skills, and actively pursuing character objectives.
- On April 9, the Arts Center proudly welcomed the Reduced Shakespeare Company and their production *All the Great Books (Abridged!)*. Nearly 400 students representing 12 schools, including charter, public, and homeschool communities from across Michigan, attended the performance. The event provided students with an engaging and energetic introduction to literature through comedy, creativity, and live theatre. With strong regional participation and enthusiastic audience response, this program stands as one of the Arts Center’s most successful and impactful events of the past two years.

Conference Presentations

- Dr. Barbara Evans presented a talk at the US Aquaculture Society (USAS) national meeting in Las Vegas on February 16. The talk, titled “Analysis of Atlantic Salmon Tissues Exposed to Heavy Metals,” included three students: Anissa Overly (Cannabis Chemistry and Forensic Chemistry), Brenden Conger (Biology), and Hannah Callaway (Biology) and faculty members Dr. Jun Li and Dr. Derek Wright.
- Dr. Barbara Evans was coauthor on a talk at the US Aquaculture Society (USAS) national meeting in Las Vegas on February 16. The talk, titled “The Great Lakes Aquaculture Collaborative (GLAC): Advancing Aquaculture Literacy,” was presented by the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network.

Other Activities

- Members of the LSSU community gathered to wish Dr. Alexei Iretski farewell and best wishes upon retirement. After 25 years of service, we thank Alexei for his dedicated service within the Department of Chemistry and beyond. The LSSU Board of Trustees honored Dr. Iretski as a Professor Emeritus at their May 15, 2026 meeting.



Fair winds and following seas,
Dr. Iretski

College of Business, Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics

Student Accomplishments and Activities

- Students in *SPAC 410 Space Operations Fundamentals* and the UPHDAS Senior Project team met with State Senator John Damoose at the Homestead Satellite Ground Station in Kinross Michigan.
- On April 29, the Lukenda School of Business hosted a networking social welcoming business leaders, alumni, and community partners to connect with the Class of 2026. The event offered students the chance to build relationships, share their goals, and gain valuable insight as they prepare for life after graduation.



Academic Program Successes

- The School of Computer Science and Mathematics celebrated the graduation of their first B.S. Data Science student, Valeriya Varnakova.

Recruitment and Outreach

- On April 10, Prof. David Leach staffed an outreach table at a FIRST Robotics competition hosted by East Kentwood High School.
- On April 11, Prof. David Leach staffed an outreach table at a FIRST Robotics competition hosted by Ferris State University.
- On April 24, the School of Engineering and Technology hosted prospective students from Bay College and provided tours of the laboratories and machine shop.
- Faculty in business, data science, and computer science have actively participated in MiTransfer Pathways workgroups to support seamless transfer opportunities from community colleges to universities and between four-year institutions.

Scholarship

- Dr. Chris Smith participated in the panel session "Space Workforce & Talent Development in Michigan" at the Great Lakes Orbit workshop organized by the Great Lakes Space Alliance and the Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation.
- Dr. Chris Smith was invited to observe a near-border drone operations demonstration by ANRA Technologies, MTRI, Censys Technologies, and Cloverland Electrical showcasing an FAA-approved UAS Traffic Management (UTM) system with ground-based security software provided by Lighthouse Avionics and Guardian RF.

- Dr. Chris Smith presented at the *Engage. Protect. Connect: AI in the Eastern Upper Peninsula* event hosted by Sault Area Public Schools, the Sault Area Career Center, and the EUPConnect Collaborative.

College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education

Student Accomplishments and Activities

- This year marked a first for the School of Education: unlike previous years, School of Education seniors joined the university-wide Senior Research Symposium, presenting capstone projects supported by Dr. Seth McCall through his *TEAC 423 Partnerships and Classroom Management* and *TEAC 480 Directed Teaching Seminar* courses. Capstone projects included:
 - *Formal vs. Informal Assessment: A Comparison of Student Performance Across Grades 1, 2, and 5* by Micaela Stubinsky, Delaney Stec, and Laci Paidl
 - *Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) and Relationship-Centered Practices in a Local School* by Brooklynn Besteman, Heidi Yiirs, Ashley Stille, and Angelina Cornwell
 - *Community, Classroom Management, and Student Support in a Faith-Centered School* by Anna Hudson, Audrey Lipe, Brianna Peterson, and Morgan Deming
- As part of *NRES 475 Aquatic Entomology*, students sit for a national certification exam in aquatic insect identification. A rigorous assessment requiring a 95% pass rate to become certified in North America taxa, compared to the professional average of 25%. All six students successfully earned the certification, awarded by the Society for Freshwater Sciences.
- Five Fisheries and Wildlife Management students joined a lunch with two Fish and Wildlife employees from Alpena for an informal question and answer session about their work and career advice on April 7.
- In Dr. Zeng's *TEAC 333 Mastering Literacy* course, teacher education students conducted multiple community/family participatory literacy events. Twelve small groups of students reached out to the communities from the UP and Lower Peninsula and organized rich events with the families and community members (details below in the Community Engagement section).
- Carli Huhn (Fisheries and Wildlife senior) was awarded one of two Student Leaders of the Year for 2025-2026 by the Student Government Association.
- Twenty-two students in the School of Natural Resources presented their senior research posters on April 24 in the LSSU Research Symposium and oral presentations on April 25 in School of Natural Resources oral symposium (see below).
 - Carli Huhn was awarded best poster for her senior thesis research on Black bear (*Ursus americanus*) movement in relation to all-terrain and off-road vehicle use on Drummond Island, Michigan (photos below). Carli's mentor was Dr. Jenna Parker.

- Janelle Docter was awarded best runner-up poster for her senior thesis research on GIS-Based Prediction of Potential Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) Spread in Michigan's Western Lower Peninsula.



The School of Natural Resources Outstanding students and Best Poster winners at the Spring 2026 Senior Symposium.

- The Rec Club held a successful Euchre tournament at Bird's Eye Pub, which raised funds to support student travel to professional conferences.
- The LSSU Fish and Wildlife Club held their final meeting where they had a chili cook off and provided an award to Kalynn McDonough for being an active member. They also installed 'hen houses' (for ducks) at Professor Emeritus, Dr. Tom Allan's, property and took a field trip to look for American Woodcock.
- Conservation Biology Club sponsored a Clothing Swap as part of a larger LSSU campus Earth Day celebration on April 22.
- Education Club officially became a new LSSU student organization and they celebrated with a party with School of Education faculty (photo to the right).



Grants

- Dr. Ashley Moerke received \$205,000 from the US Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Research and Development Center to continue research on *Didymosphenia geminata* in the St. Marys River. The project is a 3-year project and will support a graduate student and technician at CFRE. The research helps better understand seasonal changes in Didymo and how this invasive algae is affecting aquatic insects in the main rapids of the St. Marys River.

Publications

- Hinds, H. and K. Kapuscinski. In press. Preliminary comparison of inland Michigan fish assemblages on artificial reef and natural habitats during fall. *Northeastern Naturalist*. This is particularly exciting because this is Hunter's senior thesis research that he conducted with Dr. Kapuscinski.
- Parker, J.M., Williams, C.L., Deel, H.L., Letitiya, D., Goldenberg, S.Z., Sukuna, D.A., D'Ammando, G., Daballen, D., Owen, M.A., Tubbs, C.W., Mulindi, S.R., & Wittemyer, G. 2026. Livestock exposure, seasonal diet shifts, host individual, and time correlate with African savanna elephant gut microbiome diversity. *Royal Society Open Science*, 13(4): 251569. DOI: 10.1098/rsos.251569

Conference Presentations

- Dr. Seth McCall presented a paper, "More than Right: Toward an Affective Curriculum of Connection" at the Annual Conference of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) in Los Angeles, CA.
- Dr. Ashley Moerke and Bryan Burroughs, director of MI Trout Unlimited, gave a NotMiSpecies webinar (State of Michigan) titled "Rock Snot on the Radar: Tracking Didymo in Michigan Waters"; 450 participants attended the webinar.
- Alana Miller-Schofield and Dr. Kevin Kapuscinski presented "Lake Sturgeon in the St. Marys River" at the 2026 Lake Huron Fisheries Workshop: Les Cheneaux Island and St. Marys River Fisheries.

Honors and Awards

- Dr. Jenna Parker was awarded a Laker Leadership Award by the Student Government Association as Professor of the Year for 2025-2026.

Recruitment and Outreach

- As part of an ongoing grant collaboration with the EUP MiSTEM Region, CFRE staff Drew Heckman, Elizabeth Christiansen, and Michelle Visser completed a series of coding-based environmental data science activities at Sault High School to 140 students across 5 classes. Drew will present on the successes of these activities at the UP MACUL educational conference in early May.
- Dr. Jennifer Fager shared the LSSU Teacher Education programs with students in an introduction to teaching course at Alpena Community College on Wednesday, April 8. Fifteen students and their professor participated in the Zoom presentation.
- Dr. Jennifer Fager met with nine EUP School Counselors on Thursday, April 9 while they were on campus to share program options for their students and to answer any questions regarding the Teacher Education programs at LSSU.

- Dr. Yong Zeng visited North Central Academy on April 8th to introduce the School of Education at LSSU and the teacher education programs. About 35 juniors and seniors attended the session. Some students expressed interest in marine conservation-related majors in School of Natural Resources and teacher education programs from School of Education. (photo to the right)



- Dr. Jennifer Fager attended the MECA Conference College Fair on April 21 in Shelbyville, MI. She spoke with 25 Career and Technical Education instructors from across the state while sharing credit options and seamless transfer possibilities to LSSU.

- Dr. Yong Zeng and Dr. Jenna Parker visited Grand Traverse Academy on April 20th to present on School of Education and School of Natural Resources programs to students. About 30 students attended the session (photo to the right).



- Between March 26 and April 24, six prospective students and 121 other HS students toured the Barch building and the Hatchery. This included 25 members of the Essexville Robotic Team, 56 9th graders from Grand Traverse Academy, 5 members of the Bay College STEM Club, and 35 HS students from Momentum Academy in Wexford.
- Dr. Jill Witt met with Pickford High School students at the Pickford Career Fair on April 21st. About 100 students participated in the fair.
- April 21–23, Beth Christiansen visited Bay City Academy secondary students (grades 6-10) and two elementary classes (1st and 2nd). There were 215 total points of student contact during 9 programs (7 class periods and 2 field experiences of 2.5-hours each).
 - Tenth grade students experienced a field trip at Bay City State Park which included dipping for macroinvertebrates and an ecosystem comparison hike observing marsh, wooded, and beach ecosystems. This was followed the next day by identification of macroinvertebrates to assess water quality using biological factors.
 - Ninth grade students explored the “Power of Water” by comparing the properties of surface tension, density, and adhesion of a variety of liquids and exploring conductivity and pH of various water-based mixtures.
 - First, second, seventh, and eighth grade students learned about lake sturgeon’s importance to our Great Lakes ecosystems and how people can help keep the water healthy for these ancient fish to thrive.

- Sixth graders explored the Saginaw River watershed during a field trip at the shore of the river. They built watershed models, designed oil spill clean-up solutions, and learned about river pollution sources. Their morning ended with a trash clean-up at Wenona Park.
 - April 24, CFRE hosted 35 Momentum Academy high school students. Students toured the Fish Hatchery, Great Lakes Discovery Center, and the Barch CFRE Building to learn about CFRE research and opportunities for undergraduate and master’s degree students. Students wrapped up their CFRE visit with an Atlantic salmon dissection. Undergraduate student hosts included Taylor Allen (Sophomore, F&W), Delaney Smith (Sophomore, Outdoor Recreation and Leadership), Ryan Quackenbush (Junior Fisheries and Wildlife).
 - The CFRE Fish Hatchery hosted over 20 student volunteers and 12 CTE high school students during their annual fin clipping event (photos right). Every year, the hatchery clips a fin from each fish marking that fish to LSSU and what year it was born. This allows anglers to identify and report back their catches. Students learn how to safely handle the fish, humanely immobilize, and clip the fins. Clipping ended on April 20 and brought lots of smiles.
-
- CoGLEE had strong representation at the St. Ignace Career Fair—Becky Davis (Education), and Beth Christiansen and Michelle Visser (CFRE) all interacted with over 80 high school students.
 - Dr. Jennifer Fager met with 5 prospective Teacher Education students on Laker Decision Day.
 - The School of Education is in the final process of completing an articulation agreement with Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College for School of Education’s Early Childhood and lower elementary programs.

Publicity

- Dr. Ashley Moerke was interviewed as part of an article in *Bridge Michigan* on April 27 titled “Michigan nonprofit seeks help testing for ‘rock snot’ in rivers,” that highlighted the research covered in the statewide webinar she gave with Trout Unlimited director.
- “Shared Grazing Changes Elephants’ Gut Microbiomes,” a study by Dr. Jenna Parker, was featured in the April 14 *Science Africa News*.

Community Engagement

- CFRE hosted multiple events for community partners this past month including:
 - MiMichigan Doctor’s day on Wednesday, April 8.

- Headwaters North hosted a Marketing Boot Camp for area businesses to learn how to identify customers and marketing strategies to attract them.
- For the last day of March Reading Month, the CFRE Dr. Constance Baker Great Lakes Discovery Center (GLDC) presented our newest educational program, *Discover Michigan: Your Place in the Great Lake State*. 35 people, including 17 children, attended. Earlier in March this program had been taken to local schools to engage over 1,600 students.
- Additional GLDC programs in April included:
 - April 4 GLDC story & craft, Monarchs and Milkweed, which had 45 attendees.
 - April 18 Earth Day event, which had 87 attendees.
- As part of Dr. Zeng's *TEAC 333 Mastering Literacy* course, student groups organized literacy events with the families and community members. These are some of the events:



- On April 10, at the LSSU library, Samantha Sturtevant, Olivia Pucci, and Travis Forfinski organized a Family Reading Night.
- On April 21, At Bayliss Library in Sault Ste. Marie, Audrey Lipe, Maddie Bradford, and Shanna Harten hosted a Kindergarten Literacy Collaboration Read-aloud Event.



- On April 7, Brianna Petersen, Morgan Deming, Anna Hudson, Keyland Bolles conducted a Family Reading Night at Maplewood Baptist Academy



- On February 13 (reported on April 20), Jennifer Coder, Christin Hardy, and Lakyn Webster organized a Community Book Reading event at Bangor Central Elementary Library in Bay City, MI.



Operations and Infrastructure Projects

- Career and Technology Education instructor Michelle Visser applied for and received a small-scale nursery grower's license from MDARD, which will allow the Natural Resources CTE class to put on an annual native plant sale. Students have been growing fireweed, wild bergamot, common violets, purple coneflower, June grass, purple prairie clover and more.
- The waterfront CFRE sign is in its final stages of development and is expected to be installed in early June.
- CFRE staff have been meeting with collaborators across the region to review research vessel designs and to finalize the design for the new CFRE research vessel that will be supported by donor funds.
- CFRE renewed an MOU with Michigan Sea Grant to continue supporting an extension specialist position in the Barch building.
- CFRE also finalized and renewed a contract with the US Coast Guard Great Lakes Center of Expertise, which leases three offices at CFRE.
- CFRE finalized a new MOU with Headwaters North to lease an office to their CEO, Nikki Storey. All of these leases are part of a strategic initiative to build partnerships with LSSU and to provide external funding to support CFRE operations.

Scholarship Activity

- As part of our ongoing MPRI MONDE project, CFRE researchers collaborated with staff from University of Michigan's Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research (CIGLR) on testing under-ice oil detection using underwater and aerial sensors. Collected data will contribute to a presentation planned in May at the International Association of Great Lakes Research Conference in Winnipeg, Alberta.

Advisory Board Activity

- Dr. Kapuscinski was appointed to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' [Lake Superior Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee](#). Dr. Kapuscinski participated in his first committee meeting on April 8 in Marquette.

- The School of Natural Resources held spring advisory board meetings with the Fisheries and Wildlife Management, Conservation Biology, Geographic Information Science, and Outdoor Recreation and Leadership boards. Over 25 individuals participated in the spring meeting, which was an opportunity to provide end-of-year updates and solicit input on program changes.

College of Health and Emergency Responders

Student Accomplishments and Activities

- Students from *KINS 432 Community Health Intervention* conducted program outreach for Meridian Adult Foster Care. Students developed programs throughout the semester, from conducting a needs analysis based on research and talking to residents, to applying the programs. Programs included a Health Education Program based on residents practicing skills that will improve their overall health and fitness and an 'Introduction to Individualized Physical Fitness' program in which students introduced a wide variety of fitness applications to residents so they could find activities they enjoy to improve adherence. Students introduced 8 types of health and fitness activities to the residents, from blindfolded bowling to calisthenic bocce ball. Each time they returned, additional residents wanted to join the action. The evaluations from residents were very high and they are already asking that the students return.
- Interprofessional Simulation: On April 16, 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. 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 highlights the strong collaboration, hands-on learning, and interdisciplinary engagement that characterize these programs and the university community as a whole.



- On April 24, LSSU senior nursing students participated in a Teen Health Fair at Pickford High School, led by the Chippewa County Health Department. This hands-on experience is part of their *Nursing of Populations* course, coordinated and taught by Jaimee Gerrie, where classroom learning comes to life through meaningful community engagement. Students focused on promoting safety and health awareness for the teen population. These future nurses are making a positive impact through education, outreach, and prevention in our local communities.



- On April 17, LSSU Nursing students visited the K-3 classrooms at JKL Bahweting School to talk about fire safety in the home.



- On April 22, students in the Fire Science Program at LSSU participated in a 'Controlled Live Burn' activity where they put all of their hours of learning and training into practice. Guided by LSSU Professors Nick Vaught and Jim Garlitz, the students were able to extinguish and control a planned burned unit.



Honors and Awards

- Psi Chi Induction Ceremony:** On March 28th, five new student members were welcomed into the LSSU Chapter of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. This makes 10 new members for the 2025-26 academic year.

- On May 1, the 2026 LSSU Fire Academy and Paramedic graduates were celebrated at their graduation ceremony highlighting the individuals, their achievements, and the achievements that their class made throughout the year. These students have worked hard throughout the 2025-26 school year to get where they are now.



Academic Program Successes

- Consultants from the American Psychological Association's Division 2 – Teaching of Psychology came to LSSU to provide an external review of the current psychology degree program. They met with students in both a 200- and 400-level psychology course, psychology faculty, and administrators. A formal written review is forthcoming.
- On May 1, the School of Nursing celebrated their BSN Graduates at the long-standing tradition of the Pinning Ceremony. This ceremony celebrates our graduates as they take this meaningful step into the profession. Each pin represents years of dedication, compassion, and perseverance shared in a moment surrounded by family, friends, and faculty.



Recruitment and Outreach

- Chairs from Nursing and Kinesiology partnered with Cameron Mansell from Admissions to travel to Traverse City, MI on April 15 to attend the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)

State Leadership Conference and share information on the two programs in the exhibit area. Thousands of students in attendance were eager to learn about LSSU and the Nursing and Kinesiology programs.

Community Engagement

- On April 15, St. Mary's Catholic School conducted Wellness Wednesday Life Saving Skills Day. LSSU Superior Simulation Center's lending of CPR mannequins for Wellness Wednesday played a vital role in bringing lifesaving education to life for St. Mary's elementary and middle school students. Instead of only learning through discussion, students were able to practice hands-on skills, building confidence and understanding of how to respond in real-life emergencies. By providing the tools needed for realistic practice, the use of the mannequins helped empower St. Mary's students with knowledge and skills that could one day save a life. A thank you posted on St. Mary's Catholic School Facebook page: "Special thank you to Lake Superior State University's Superior Simulation Lab for generously donating the use of their training mannequins, helping bring these lifesaving lessons to life."

Conference Presentations

- Six Psychology students and three faculty traveled to Albion College for the annual Michigan Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference. Students presented their senior research projects on Saturday, April 11th to faculty and students across the state.



Former Student Updates

- Danny Nacker (class of 2017) recently gave a presentation at the Berlin Symposium for Stroboscopic Light. He is in the second year of his PhD program at the Sussex Centre for Consciousness Science.
 - He shared the following highlights: "Our depression intervention study went very well and my new programming logic which transforms any audio file into spectrally-relevant stroboscopic parameters seems to be "the new thing" in strobe research. I have officially made a non-pharmacological altered state which can induce neuroplasticity, emotional breakthroughs, and alter long-term autocorrelations and oscillatory balance across a number of critical regimes (detrended fluctuation analysis, aperiodic 1/f slope, etc.) and we are now aiming to start a proper NHS clinical trial for depression as well as extend our entrainment effects into other bands for things like dementia and ADHD treatment."
 - "...about to start my seventh and eighth study. The most notable of these is a TMS-EEG study, and this school's first perturbational complexity index study with its own primary data, in which I am aiming to validate some signal biomarkers which seem to track depressive severity from multiple open source data cohorts, and build a multivariable biomarker diagnostic model for depression. These signals also seem to be readily influenced by both strobe and relevant pharmacodynamic interventions, paving the way toward what I hope is an eventual future in which a 'computational neuropsychiatry' exists and we are able to apply what we know about signal physics to individually correct aberrations in oscillatory dynamics through personalized closed-loop systems. We are currently awaiting to hear back from multiple grants..."

- Noelle Mongene (class of 2017) attended the Oakland University Student Excellence Awards on April 27 where she was presented with the 2025 Outstanding Dissertation Award. She earned her PhD in Experimental Psychology on May 4, 2025.

Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, May 27 - Bay City Charter School's *The Sound of Music Jr.*, Arts Center, 11 am & 7pm
- Thursday, May 29 - Community Rally featuring Abdul El-Sayed, Arts Center, TBD