



LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY

Advancement Report October 9, 2026

Agenda Item #1: Dashboard

☒ Information

☐ Action

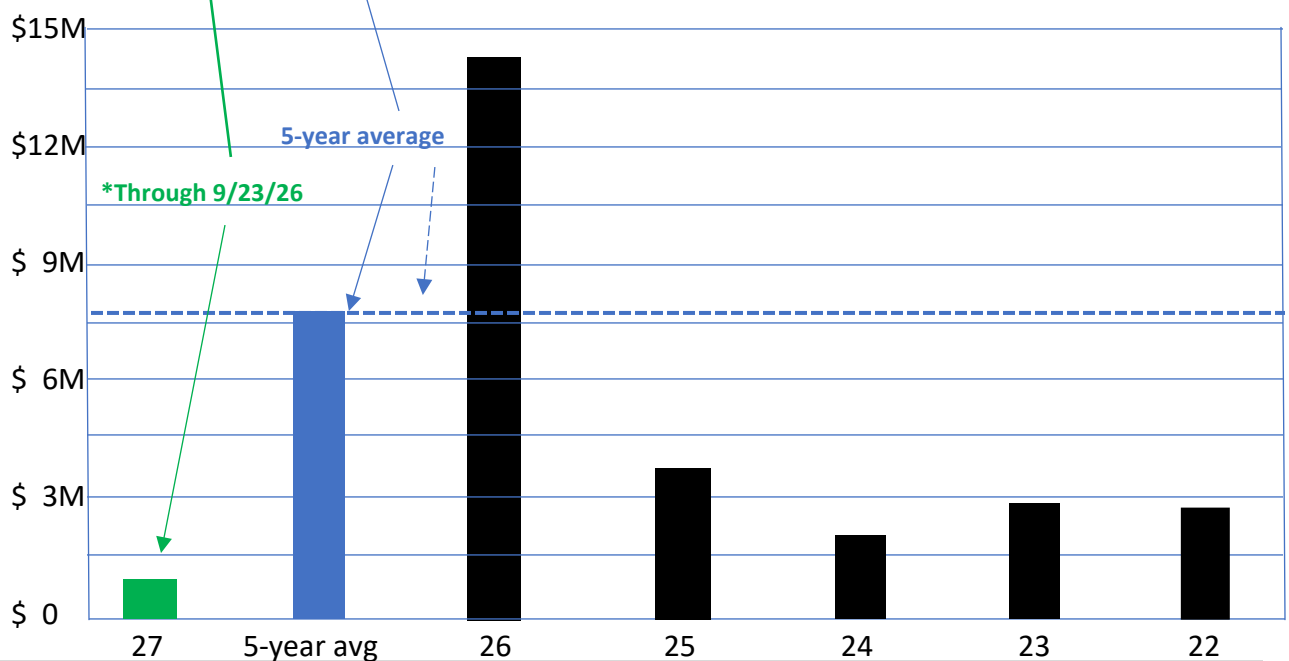
☐ Discussion

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 2027	'22 – '26 5-year avg	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
YTD							
July - Sept Q1	824,475	746,120	2,266,415	148,898	277,550	450,901	586,835
Oct – Dec Q2		519,317	190,683	527,192	241,543	289,855	1,347,312
Jan – Mar Q3		1,323,256	4,914,036	169,406	428,669	530,640	573,531
Apr – June Q4		2,515,554	7,233,601	2,785,324	717,111	1,643,509	198,225
Total	824,475*	5,104,247	14,604,735	3,630,820	1,664,873	2,914,905	2,705,903



FY27 Gift breakdown:

To date = Cash + Pledges + Grants + Estate



Fiscal Year (7/1 – 6/30)	To date 2026	Cash	Pledges	Grants	Estate
YTD					
July - Sept Q1	824,475	228,395	121,080		475,000
Oct – Dec Q2					
Jan – Mar Q3					
Apr – June Q4					
Total	824,475	228,395	121,080		475,000

Suggested Action/Motion:

No Action Required

President's Recommendation:

N/A



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Agenda Item #2: Major Gifts, Planned Giving, Grants and Annual Giving 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 May, 2026 meeting.

Jeff Jackson has made a generous \$45,702 gift supporting the Katherine E. Jackson Hockey Endowment that supports LSSU hockey operations. Jeff established the endowment as a legacy of his mother Katherine Jackson's determination and unwavering support of her son's coaching career and the LSSU hockey team.

Darien and Ruth Neveu, both 1977 LSSU graduates, made a \$10,000 gift supporting the Soo Loretto Scholarship Fund (\$5,000) and LSSU Men's Swimming (\$5,000). Ruth served as an Assistant Professor in the Library before retiring in 2017 and was subsequently bestowed Emeritus status in recognition of her service to LSSU.

The Wildshore Foundation, Inc. made a \$12,000 gift.

A \$100,000 gift commitment was received from Craig Miller of Great Lakes Roofing.

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.

FY27 Documented estate gifts by quarter:

Quarter	Amount	Purpose
Q1	\$150,000 \$225,000 \$100,000	Scholarship (Mudge estate) Hart Scholarship (Ann Hart estate) Bollin Scholarship (Bill Bollin estate)
Q2		
Q3		
Q4		
FY27 TOTAL	\$475,000	

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.

FY27 Q1 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.

Annual Giving:

Annual Fundraising activities provide financial support for university initiatives and assist in the identification of potential major gift donors.

LSSU Advancement Annual Fundraising Activities:

Athletics Annual Giving

Fiscal Year	Gross Revenue	Number of Donors
2026-27* (9/1)	\$37,368	73
2025-26**	\$234,850	306
2024-25***	\$191,105	210
2023-24	\$90,768	163
2022-23	\$80,230	119
2021-22	\$96,463	201



*Instead of only Laker Club gifts, reports moving forward will include annual gifts made toward Laker Athletics. This does not include gifts to the Lake State Classic, major infrastructure projects (such as locker rooms), the anonymous Laker Hockey Advancement Fund, estate planning, or scholarship-related giving toward Athletics.

**Includes approximately \$18,000 from the first annual women's basketball golf outing, as well as a \$50,000 one-time cash gift to the Laker Hockey Challenge Match.

***Includes a one-time increased gift of \$40,000 from a hockey donor toward the trophy cases in the lobby.

Laker Hockey Challenge

LSSU 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 toward 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 37th Annual Lake State Classic took place on Friday, August 7, at Wild Bluff. The "Classic Bash" returned on Thursday, August 6, also at Wild Bluff. The Classic sold out once again, marking the fourth consecutive year of a sold-out event.

The 2027 event will be on Friday, August 6, 2026.

Fiscal Year	Gross Revenue	Net Revenue	Golfers	Location
2026	\$54,757	\$42,002	*144	Wild Bluff
2025	\$55,872	\$43,045	*144	Wild Bluff
2024	\$50,620	\$38,604	*144	Wild Bluff
2023	\$52,892	\$35,931	*144	Wild Bluff
2022	\$45,450	\$34,315	110	Wild Bluff

* Sold Out

Laker Women's Basketball Golf Outing – September 26, 2026

The 2nd Annual Laker Women's Basketball Golf Outing was a tremendous SOLD OUT success. The 144 golfers had a beautiful day to play. Proceeds still being calculated.

LSSU Annual Fund Activity:**Superior Give-a-thon**

The 2026 Superior Give-a-Thon started February, 16 and ran 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. The annual mailer for 2026-2027 will go out and kick off during the holiday season.

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

Suggested Action/Motion:

No Action Required

President's Recommendation:

N/A



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Agenda Item #3: 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:

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 Alumni Relations Activities:

Event Recaps



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

LSSU Day at the Tigers took place on July 25 as the Detroit Tigers faced the Kansas City Royals. A pregame social was held prior to the game, providing an opportunity for LSSU supporters to connect. Hospitality tickets for the event sold out, with approximately 40 supporters in attendance.



Lake State Classic – August 7, 2026

The 37th Annual Lake State Classic was set for Friday, August 7 at Wild Bluff. The event once again sold out with 144 golfers, and raised a net of over \$40,000 for Laker Athletics.



Lakers at University of Windsor – Oct 2 & 3, 2026

Laker hockey opened the season on the road against the University of Windsor. The game on Saturday, October 3, took place in Essex, Ontario, with a pre-game social held for LSSU alumni and supporters.

Upcoming Events

Campus Talk – Bud Denker – October 22, 2026

Plan to join us for the campus talk on Thursday, October 22 at 6pm in the Kenneth J. Shouldice Library as Bud Denker shares lessons drawn from decades of experience in business, motorsports and organizational leadership. He will discuss navigating challenges, responding to setbacks and leading teams through an environment where change and uncertainty are constant.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT: INSIGHTS FROM BUD DENKER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 6:00 PM
KENNETH J. SHOULDICE LIBRARY

From the boardroom to the racetrack, Bud Denker '80 has spent his career leading through high-stakes challenges. As President of Penske Corporation and a driving force behind Team Penske, Denker brings a unique perspective on leadership, resilience and turning big ideas into reality.

Hear his story. Learn his lessons. Be inspired.

Join us for this GLSW Campus Talk - All are welcome!



Great Lake State Weekend – Oct 23 & 24, 2026



GLSW is set for October 23-24, 2026. Plan to join us for a memorable homecoming celebration that includes exciting Laker hockey games vs. Bowling Green State University, Alumni Awards and Hall of Fame ceremony, LSSU Hockey Ring of Honor, Board of Trustees Tailgate Party, and more! Visit our website for more information as it becomes available: <https://alumni.lssu.edu/great-lake-state-weekend-2026/>

2026 Alumni Award Recipients



The LSSU Alumni Awards and Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2026, as part of Great Lakes State Weekend.

This year's Outstanding Alumni Award recipient is Bud Denker, Class of '80, originally from Brimley, Michigan. Denker exemplifies that legacy through his leadership as President of Penske Corporation, Executive Vice President of Human Resources for Penske Automotive Group, and Executive Vice President of Team Penske, where he oversees its IndyCar, NASCAR, and Porsche Penske Motorsports programs.

The Kenneth J. Shouldice Achievement Award recipient is Pete Stauber, Class of '90, originally from Duluth, Minnesota. Stauber currently serves as the U.S. Representative for Minnesota's 8th Congressional District. A former law enforcement officer, he also wore the Laker uniform as a member of the 1988 NCAA Division I national championship hockey team.

The Paul E. Ripley Award for Young Alumni recipient is Austin Lowes, Class of '12, from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Lowes has built an impressive professional record and currently serves as Chairman of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

The Dr. Donald and Catherine Finlayson Distinguished Citizen Award recognizes H. James Bourque, Class of '56 (MCMT), a longtime businessman in Sault Ste. Marie whose enduring commitment to Lake Superior State University has made a lasting impact. Through decades of involvement and support, Bourque has remained a dedicated champion of the university and its mission.

2026 LSSU Hall of Fame Inductees



This year's inductees into the Lake Superior State University Athletic Hall of Fame represent a wide range of talent, eras, and athletic achievement that have helped shape Laker history.

The 2026 class includes Clayton Beddoes '94, a standout Laker hockey player from 1990–94 and a native of Bentley, Alberta;

Maria Blazejewski '13, who made her mark on the women's basketball program from 2009–13 and hails from Beulah, Michigan;

Dennis Bolton '74, a key member of the Laker hockey team from 1970–74, originally from Copper Cliff, Ontario; and

Chris Wooley '90, a scoring leader for the Laker basketball team from 1986–90 and a native of Detroit, Michigan.

Suggested Action/Motion:

No Action Required

President's Recommendation:

N/A



Advancement Report

October 9, 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: The Senate passed a bill to raise the bond cap for capital outlay allocations. LSSU received \$30M (75%) in capital outlay funding for a \$40M CASET renovation. LSSU is obligated to raise a minimum \$10M (25%) to meet the state required match.

History of LSSU's recent state capital outlay projects.

FY26	FY21	FY18	FY05
\$30M CASET Approved	\$8.8M Barch CFRE Approved	\$9M Considine Approved	\$11.5M Arts Center Approved

The legislature is primarily out of session for the fall campaign season.

A summary of possible lame duck initiatives is being developed.

Suggested Action/Motion:

No Action Required

President's Recommendation:

N/A