

LUKENDA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS BULLETIN

LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY - SPRING EDITION 2026

PROF. MINDY MCCREADY APPOINTED DEAN OF COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



Prof. Mindy McCready has been appointed Dean of the College of Professional Studies as part of a campus-wide reorganization that will take effect on July 1, 2026. President David Travis met with faculty and staff to understand how the current academic leadership structures are functioning and to identify opportunities for increased efficiency and collaboration. The College of Professional Studies will be made up of the following schools: Lukenda School of Business, School of Engineering & Technology, School of Computer Science & Mathematics, School of Nursing and the School of Criminal Justice, Fire Science and Emergency Services. This reorganization is intended to strengthen academic alignment, improve operational efficiency and support continued growth across professional programs.

Congratulations Mindy!!

STEP UP PROGRAM PREPARES FOR FIRST GRADUATING CLASS

STEP UP (Success Through Educational Pathways in the UP) is Lake Superior State University's higher education program operating inside Michigan correctional facilities. Forty three students are earning accredited LSSU business degrees while serving their sentences.

With 25 new students enrolling each fall, STEP UP will sustain 100 enrolled students within five years, making it one of the most significant prison higher-education programs in Michigan and a national model for business education behind bars.

These students are fathers, sons, and neighbors. They are committed scholars working hard every day to prepare themselves to return to Michigan communities as educated, employed contributors – ready to build businesses, support families and pay it forward.

This August, the first cohort of 15 STEP UP students will receive the Associate Degree in Small Business Administration. There will be a graduation ceremony held at the Chippewa Correctional Facility to honor their work. These students also serve as mentors and leaders for the incoming classes and have inspired many LSSU faculty and staff along the way. You can donate to the STEP UP program directly: <https://advancement.lssu.edu/give-today/>

DELTA MU DELTA INDUCTEES



Lake Superior State University's Lukenda School of Business inducted two students into the international business honor society, Delta Mu Delta for spring 2026. Delta Mu Delta has more than 200 chapters worldwide, with 150,000-plus members. Inductees must have a minimum GPA of 3.25 and be in the top 20% of their class. The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), from which LSSU's business program earns accreditation, also recognizes the honor society. New members include **Charles Johnson** and **Julie Heslip**. Charles is a senior graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance & Economics. Charles has accepted a position at Central Savings Bank in Sault Ste. Marie, MI as Controller. Charles is from DePere, WI. Julie is a junior pursuing a degree in Business Administration-Marketing and is from Linden, MI. Congratulations Charles and Julie!

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS RECOGNIZED



Marisa Berlinger was recognized as the 2026 LSB Distinguished Alumnus. Marisa graduated from Sault Area High School before attending LSSU where she graduated with a B.S. degree in Business Administration-Management and a minor in Pre-Law. During her time at LSSU, she earned numerous academic honors, including induction into the Sigma Beta Delta International Honor Society for Business. Marisa went on to earn a Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School in 2016. Marisa currently serves as an Associate Attorney at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP in Seattle, where she litigates complex commercial cases and contributes extensively to pro bono work across a range of civil rights issues.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD WINNERS



Chamber Achiever

Grant Riley of Rochester, NY received the Sault Area Chamber of Commerce Achievement award for 2026. This award is presented to an outstanding senior who shows leadership inside and outside of the classroom. Grant graduates Summa Cum Laude with two Bachelor Degrees – one in Finance and Economics and the other in Business Administration. He was a goaltender for the LSSU Men's Hockey team and will be moving to Austin, TX to start his career with Dell Technologies in August.

Congratulations Grant!!



Outstanding Business Grad

Tayla Brasier of Bathurst, Australia, is the recipient of the Lukenda School of Business Outstanding Baccalaureate Student award. Tayla graduates Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration-Marketing. Tayla was a member of the LSSU Women's Tennis team and plans to pursue an MBA in fall 2026 at Texas A & M Texarkana where she will also play on the tennis team.

Congratulations Tayla!!



Outstanding Regional Center

Graduate – Allyson Lancour of McFarland, MI is the recipient of the Lukenda School of Business Outstanding Regional Center Graduate award. Allyson graduates Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in Accounting, an Associate of Arts in Business Administration and an Associate of Applied Science in Accounting. Allyson's future plans include continuing her employment at a local accounting firm while obtaining her CPA license and travel/visit National Parks.

Congratulations Allyson!!



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!



*Front Row L-R: Carlee Johnson, Tayla Brasier, Hope Brandt, Logan Einertson, Tate Garver, Noah Kilmark, Andrew Langford, Alex Reynolds
Back Row L-R: Jackson Rund, Gavin Trom, Avery Timm, Kyle Sweeney, Samantha Suhrcke, Domenic Rizzo, Grant Riley, Allyson Lancour,
Brandon Hagyard, Mauro Greco, Joseph Allen, Angelo Greenburg, Donald Strazzinski, Jr.*

SENIOR DINNER STUDENT ADDRESSES



Grant Riley



Tayla Brasier

Grant Riley and Tayla Brasier were selected to present the Student Response on behalf of the LSB 2026 Graduating class.

MBA FIRST COHORT GRADUATES



Pictured L-R: Kathleen Spencer, Justin Pollard, Brendan Adams, Joseph Nolan, Jesston Whitley, Joseph Barr, Samantha Lee, Nikita Becks

The first cohort of the LSSU MBA Program will graduate August 2026. This cohort began their studies in fall 2024 and will finish their last two courses this summer. The deadline to apply for the next cohort to start fall 2026 is July 15, 2026.



Joseph Nolan was chosen as the 2026 Outstanding MBA (Master of Business Administration) Graduate. Joseph is from Sault Ste. Marie, MI and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting-150 Hour Program from LSSU in 2017. Joseph is currently the Executive Director of the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency.

Congratulations Joseph!



BPA President Gabriel Viau, COL Champion and BPA Treasurer Haylee Gatien, Wyatt Groleau and Hunter Robinson present Special Olympics program of Delta, Schoolcraft and Menominee counties through the Chain of Love fundraiser.

The Bay College/LSSU Regional Center chapter of Business Professionals of America (BPA) student club raised \$800 in donations for the Local Area 1 Special Olympics program of Delta, Schoolcraft, and Menominee counties through the Chain of Love fundraiser. To participate in the Chain of Love fundraiser, donors wrote the name of a loved one on a link and added it to the chain. As a result, a long chain of love was created. The proceeds from this fundraiser help cover costs associated with the Local 1 Special Olympics program, such as purchasing uniforms, equipment, and travel for all athletes.



Dr. Heidi Rife received her Doctorate of Business Administration in Data Analytics from Grand Canyon University in October 2025. Heidi is currently the Regional Center Director for the Escanaba, Petoskey and Iron Mountain Regional Centers, which provide Northern Michigan residents access to bachelor degrees, certificates and academic support without traveling to the main Sault Ste. Marie campus.

Congratulations Heidi!

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FOR 2026-27 ACADEMIC YEAR

Several scholarships were awarded this past spring for the 2026-27 academic year. They include:

Central Savings Bank – Adelyn Coullard – Adelyn is an Accounting major from Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

Lambda – Adelyn Coullard – Adelyn is an Accounting major from Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

Evah Henderson – Evah is an Accounting & Finance/Economics major from Kinross, MI.

Alivia Hoornstra – Alivia is an Accounting & Business Administration major from Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

Emily Pruitt – Emily is a Business Administration-Entrepreneurship major from Barbeau, MI.

Logan Raffaele – Logan is a Business Administration major from Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

Caitlyn Stevens – Caitlyn is Business Administration-Marketing major from Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

Eugene Orlando Memorial – Alivia Hoornstra – Alivia is an Accounting/Business Administration major from Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

Steven Glezen Memorial Scholarship – Logan Raffaele – Logan is a Business Administration major from Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

William & Sandra Breed Family Business Scholarship – Evah Henderson – Evah is an Accounting & Finance/Economics major from Kinross, MI.

Claude & Mary Denker Scholarship – Emily Pruitt – Emily is a Business Administration-Entrepreneurship major from Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

Evah Henderson – Evah Henderson is an Accounting & Finance/Economics major from Kinross, MI.

Marissa Berlinger Scholarship – Caitlyn Stevens – Caitlyn is a Business Administration-Marketing major from Sault Ste. Marie, MI.