

**Academic Update
for
Board of Trustees Meeting
11/08/2016**

HLC Reaccreditation site visit summary:

- Thank you to all involved in preparation and on-site meetings over the past day and a half
- Much of the focus is Academics
- Five criteria: Mission, Integrity, Teaching & Learning X2, Strategic Planning & Effectiveness
- HLC also considered our Substantive Change Request to offer an MBA program

Midterm Grade Estimates reporting by faculty was at its highest level ever (overall and for freshmen).

New Academic Hires (Arts Center Front of House—Jody Kapuscinski; Librarian—Ali Van Doren)

Sault Ste. Marie received an e-Cities Award (3rd year) in recognition of our economic development, entrepreneurship, and jobs growth efforts. The city/university partnership was highlight, especially Nursing Simulation Center. <http://www.saultedc.com/>

A Reverse Transfer Agreement was signed with Delta College near Saginaw, MI on Oct. 26th. This is LSSU's 10th such agreement, demonstrating our genuine interest in partnering with Community Colleges.

The Shouldice Library has launched a new academic podcasting portal (LakerCast). <https://lakerblogs.lssu.edu/lakercast/> Library outreach is growing, and we've been chosen to host another TEDx in Spring 2017.

The Shouldice Library and Bayliss Library are on the cusp of announcing a collaboration, whereby patrons can seamlessly access both collections.

The recent programmatic accreditation visit of our engineering technology programs in CASET was very successful. All indications suggest that Manufacturing Engineering Technology will be reaccredited and Electrical Engineering Technology will receive initial accreditation.

Articulation agreements with Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) in Traverse City and Bay College in Escanaba in the disciplines of computer, electrical, and mechanical engineering have been crafted to promote transfer to LSSU. 11 NMC students visited campus a week ago; 8 Bay students are here Friday.

Mark Duty, a 1988 Electrical Engineering Technology graduate has been selected at the Alumni Fellows (Outstanding Engineering alumnus) nominee just this morning. Mark is Mgr., Vehicle Electrical Energy Demand for FCA Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, and he has authored or co-authored 21 patents.

Dr. Stephen Kolomyjec and Ian Mangold have sequenced LSSU's first genome. It was terricolous lichens

Dr. Britt Ranson-Olson and Dr. Martha Hutchens collaborated with professional colleagues to host the Fall Meeting of the Michigan Branch of the American Society for Microbiology in the lecture rooms and lobby of Crawford Hall. The meeting was attended by ~60 faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and students.

The School of Mathematics and Computer Science recently held their third annual Mathematics and Computer Science Field Day that attracted more than 150 high school students, assisted with the 4-H National Science Day on "Drone Discovery", assisted with a grant proposal to create a Maker Space in Pickford, started work with the School of Biology on a sub-grant from Iowa State University and the USDA titled "Youth Education in Aquaculture" and hosted the 2017 ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest North-Central Regional site with teams from MTU, NMU, Algoma U., and LSSU. Lastly, Katie Kalata was recently interviewed by web professionals.org and featured in their newsletter.

The Michigan Sociological Association (MSA) Outstanding Student Research Paper award was given to LSSU sociology student Meagan Harman for her study titled, "The Interaction of Culture, Self-Perception, and Depression in Native American Youth."

Psychology faculty member Dr. Russell Searight continues to be very productive in his scholarship. In the past quarter (July-Oct. 2016), he has completed one book review co-authored three conference papers, and had two other papers accepted for publication.

Finally, LSSU's efforts in educational enrichment and access continue in earnest. Michigan GEAR UP activities, funded through the U.S. Dept. of Education and Michigan's own King Chavez Parks Initiative, included information about FAFSA changes as well as a college campus visit.

And, TITLE III grant funding continues to support the five initiatives identified in the Improving Institutions grant: Creation of a Faculty Center for Teaching; Peer mentors for first year students; Creation of a Student Learning Commons; Identification of LSSU specific Momentum Points and removing student barriers; and change to an Open Source Learning Management System (Moodle).