



2017 Outstanding Alumnus David B. Jahn '90

David B. Jahn of Sault Ste. Marie, a graduate of LSSU's Masters of Business Administration program in 1990, has been named the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Alumnus Award.

Jahn has been the president and chief executive officer of Chippewa County War Memorial Hospital since 2005. He is responsible for the overall operations of the facility, which includes 82 acute care beds, 51 long term care beds and 20 beds in an inpatient psychiatric unit. The hospital has experienced tremendous growth to the physical infrastructure and staff under Jahn's leadership, with now more than 950 employees and 60 physicians employed there.

Born and raised in Manistique, Michigan, Jahn pursued his educational goal within the confines of the Upper Peninsula. "LSSU has played a major role in my education and my professional life," said Jahn. "If it wasn't for LSSU and its off-campus MBA program, I probably would have never been able to advance my education since after I did my undergrad at MTU I went right into the workforce, got married and started to have a family. The LSSU MBA program allowed me to go to class on the weekends over a two year period and obtain my MBA which has really helped me along my career path."

Jahn led a financial turnaround for War Memorial, which transitioned from losing more than \$1 million annually to making more than a \$3 million profit in 2008. He led efforts for several major construction project including a \$5 million project to expand and renovate the emergency department; a \$7.7 million addition in the radiology department; the construction of a \$6 million, 30,000 square foot rehabilitation department; construction of a \$10 million, 40,000 square foot medical office building; the addition of an inpatient behavioral health unit to the hospital and a \$4 million skywalk/new entrance project to enhance the patient care experience.

"On the professional level I have worked very closely with LSSU in many different areas since I arrived in 2005," Jahn continued. "One of the most important areas has been War Memorial Hospital's partnership with LSSU's nursing program. The hospital is very fortunate to have LSSU producing high quality registered nurses every year and LSSU is very fortunate to have WMH as a clinical site for their nursing program. The relationship has been so beneficial to both organizations."

Prior to coming to Sault Ste. Marie to become CEO of the hospital, Jahn was vice president of marketing for MHA Insurance Company in Lansing from 2004 to 2005. He was both chief executive officer and chief financial officer for Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital in Manistique from 1982 to 2004. His first job out of college was as a staff accountant for Marquette General Hospital.

Jahn earned a bachelor of science from Michigan Technological University in 1980 and completed his MBA at LSSU in 1990 while working full time at Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital.

Jahn has a great deal of respect and compliments for Lake State employees. "I would like to recognize the hard work that LSSU President Tom Pleger put in during his time at LSSU to this partnership and his support of WMH at the time," he said. "He certainly wanted to do what was best for his students, but he also wanted to see WMH be successful as well because we both knew how important each organization was to the other."

"I was also asked a few years ago to serve on the LSSU Foundation Board by Tom Coates. Tom is a great asset to the Foundation and his staff do an excellent job of fundraising to help support the University."

Jahn continued, "I have also worked with current nursing school Dean Ron Hutchins and he has been a great partner as well. Ron is totally committed to excellence in the nursing profession and WMH benefits when hiring these highly skilled highly trained nurses. We also offer internships to senior nursing students so that they can get real time experience before they actually graduate."

"We are currently working on a project to renovate one of our buildings into a Simulation Center that would be jointly used by LSSU and WMH. This would be a great addition to both organizations and it would aid in attracting more nursing students to LSSU which in turn would mean more qualified nurses to potentially work for WMH. I am hopeful that we can get this completed soon."

Following the adage, if you want something done, ask a busy person -,Jahn is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives; a board member of the Lake Superior State University Foundation; board member of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association, as well as of the MHHA Foundation. He is vice chairman of the Michigan Center for Rural Health board; board member for the Upper Peninsula Health Plan and the Upper Peninsula Health Care network. He is also a board member for the Medical Protective Hospital Advisory Committee and for Central Savings Bank. He is an avid and skilled golfer, often supporting and playing in charitable events for causes like the United Way and Laker Athletics.

"I have also had the pleasure of doing radio broadcasts of LSSU basketball for the last 5 years," Jahn shared. "I have had the opportunity to work with men's head coach Steve Hettinga, (former) women's head coach Kristen Rogers, (former) athletic director Kris Dunbar and (former) sports information director Linda Bouvet during this time and all of them are outstanding individuals who really do have the best interests of the student athlete at heart. Coach Hettinga is an excellent mentor for the young men that come and chose to play basketball at LSSU. He is focused on the student athlete and the life experiences that he can impact much more than the wins and losses of the actual basketball games. It has been a real pleasure doing the games and LSSU has produced some great student athletes over this time.

"I have been very fortunate to have developed a lot of great relationships with LSSU and its staff," he continued. "I know that I left out a lot of other LSSU staff that are instrumental to the nursing program, simulation center project and the work of the Foundation, but they all do a wonderful job."

David Jahn has been married 35 years to his wife Judy. They have four children: Dennis 41; Denise 39, Heidi 34; and Ashley 32. They also have four grandchildren.

Jahn concluded, "In closing I would like to thank my family for their support of me over the years and specifically my wife Judy, who has endured many lonely nights when I was on the road or at meetings. Without her support I wouldn't be where I am today."