



LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY

March 20, 2020

Dear LSSU Community:

As our University and world continue to adjust to the global pandemic, I want to keep you informed of our response plan to COVID-19. LSSU maintains student success at its core while working to keep our campus and community safe.

As I reflect on the week now largely behind us, I am grateful to – and for – each of you. Our faculty members have made a near-overnight transition from in-class to virtual teaching. Our staff have made similar shifts to ensure that technology, academic support services, programming, meal service, and facility cleaning and operation can continue with as little impact felt as possible. In fact, many services have been enhanced to meet current need. Our students have shown resilience and grit in their transition to a virtual classroom, and in light of changes in the way they build and experience community. All of these examples, along with countless unlisted others, demonstrate the extraordinary character of Lake Superior State University.

Several important decisions have been made. They include:

Courses: We will continue online/virtual learning through the Spring 2020 semester, including online/virtual final exams as originally scheduled during the week of April 27.

Labs/Senior Projects: Faculty will make every effort to complete labs and senior projects using an online/virtual format. Some labs will need to be completed face-to-face. In those cases, students will receive an Incomplete and will complete the lab at a later date.

Course Drop Date: Given the transition from face-to-face instruction to online, the drop date has been extended from March 27 to April 24. With this extension, students could drop a course until the last day of instruction, and receive an “N” grade on the transcript. An “N” will not count in Earned Credits, GPA, or attempted credits, which is important for financial aid.

The **Senior Research Symposium** scheduled for April 17 is canceled. Faculty members will have their students present their senior projects virtually.

Honors Convocation and Commencement: These events, scheduled for May 1st and 2nd, are postponed to a date to-be-determined, possibly mid- to late summer or fall. We want to celebrate and honor our graduates who have worked so hard to earn their degrees.

Campus Life, Residence Halls, & Dining: Our Residence Halls remain open and our dining service in operation, with continued modifications and enhanced safety precautions. Our Student Affairs professionals will be continuing to offer a wide variety of virtual programming to promoting the Laker experience.

In conclusion, we continue to urge social distancing and all preventative hygiene practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Remember to make use of our University’s resources to stay in good health – academically, mentally, and physically. Even if the statement “We are here for you” now has a virtual tenor to it, it rings just true if not more so.

Please continue to monitor your LSSU email address and our University response website, www.lssu.edu/coronavirus, for critical updates and information.

Stay safe and stay well.

Sincerely,

Rodney S. Hanley, Ph.D.

President