

LSSU College Access Activities

Sitting alongside an international border and amidst five Tribal/First Nations communities, LSSU is uniquely located in the state of Michigan. Less than 20% of the population from the three county region surrounding the university holds a bachelor's degree (Chippewa 19%, Mackinac 18%, Luce 12%; source: <http://www.towncharts.com/Michigan/Education/Chippewa-County-MI-Education-data.html>)

LSSU has a bifurcated college access mission: 1) enable college visioning and support college access among regional youth who include many first generation students; and 2) provide an educational program which meets the needs of local students while also propelling the student beyond their initial vision. LSSU prides itself in offering a *Value-Added Education*.

Educational Enrichment and Visioning - Enabling college visioning begins very early

Elementary and secondary students from local schools engage with LSSU students as real-life examples of the potential for college attendance. LSSU scaffolds these enrichment opportunities to stimulate curiosity and interest in college attendance.

- LSSU students trained as College Positive Volunteers (Michigan Campus Compact curriculum), LSSU athletes, members of LSSU student organizations and students engaged in practicum work engage in reading, science, and other academic activities with regional classroom students.
- Regional students participate in academic fieldtrips to LSSU. Elementary fieldtrips include student visits with the Nursing program, the Nursing Simulation Lab, the Aquaponics Program, the Aquatics Research Lab, the Planetarium, the Arts Center, EUP Regional Science Fair, etc. Fieldtrip opportunities for secondary students have included hands-on engagement with the LSSU Chemistry program, Biology program, Geology program, Aquaponics program, Planetarium, Robotics Lab, Aquatics Research Lab, Campus Tours, and Pi day competitions,
- LSSU offers both sports and academically related summer camps to elementary and secondary students.

College Access Activities – Activities with intentionally embedded college access preparation

MI GEAR UP – cohort model college access program. Beginning in grade 7 through the first year post-secondary, MI GEAR UP offers campus visits, college access activities, financial literacy training, FAFSA support, mentoring, tutoring, educational fieldtrips and summer programs.

Upward Bound – non-cohort model college access program. Targeted support to students from regional schools beginning in 8th grade. Offers campus visits, college access activities, financial literacy training, FAFSA support, mentoring, tutoring, educational fieldtrips and summer programming.

LSSU Charter Schools – college access support, campus visits and summer programming as well as dedicated scholarships for charter school students attending LSSU.

Additional Support: Dual Enrollment/Concurrent Enrollment, EUP College Fair, Financial Aid (FAFSA) completion events, dedicated scholarships for students from local schools including MI GEAR UP students, visits from LSSU Admissions representatives to local schools offering information about the application process, acceptance and financial aid. LSSU is a member of the Michigan College Access Network.