

# news

SEPTEMBER 2024

“Education is the key to unlocking the world,  
a passport to freedom.”

-Oprah Winfrey



## From the Top

Dear Board Members and Academy Leaders,

As the warmth of summer gently fades into fall, September brings with it a fresh start and a sense of renewal. Whether you're gearing up for new projects, diving into seasonal activities, or simply enjoying the changing colors around you, this month is all about embracing change and moving forward. We at the LSSU CSO are excited about a new school year and are always looking for ways to support our academies. Please feel free to reach out to our office anytime with ideas of how we can continue to partner with you.

In this edition, we're excited to share dual enrollment information, professional development opportunities, spotlight our academies, and provide important compliance, finance and academic updates. Let's make the most of this new school year and keep the momentum going!

Sincerely,

Chris Oshelski  
Executive Director

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# Dual Enrollment

## Dual Enrollment Opportunity at Lake Superior State University

LSSU's Dual Enrollment program offers high school students the chance to take college courses and earn college credits while still in high school. This is a fantastic opportunity to get a head start on your college education! Each semester, we offer at least one online course that fulfills general education requirements, providing flexibility and convenience for students.

If you're interested in partnering with LSSU to bring dual enrollment opportunities to your students, I'd love to connect with you. Please reach out to me, Amanda Stempky, Assistant Director of Pre-College Services, at 906-635-2057 or [astempky@lssu.edu](mailto:astempky@lssu.edu).



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Amanda Stempky  
Assistant Director of  
Pre-College Services  
Lake Superior State University  
Direct: 906-635-2057  
[Dual Enrollment Webpage](#)  
[Early Middle College Webpage](#)

## 2024-25 Testing Windows

### Fall

September 9- October 4

### Winter

January 6- February 3

### Spring

April 28- June 6



## New Beginnings



Brooke Maciag, our beloved School Support Specialist, has accepted a new position as the Director of Project Development and Customer Success for Centric Learning. Although we will miss her, we wish Brooke nothing but success in her new venture. Thank you for all that you did for LSSU Charter Schools. Congratulations, Brooke.

# Board Member Learning Opportunities

## Professional Development Options Virtual

- **Sept. 3:** Navigating your Role as a New Board Member – Part I (Format: Zoom)
- **Oct. 1:** Why Can't we all Just get Along? (Format: GoToWebinar)
- **Nov. 5:** Establishing a Positive Board Culture (Format: GoToWebinar)
- **Dec. 3:** Board President Interaction (Format: Zoom)
- **Jan. 7:** Bringing Order to Meetings (Format: GoToWebinar)
- **Feb. 4:** The Role of the Board Treasurer (Format: Zoom)
- **Mar. 4:** Acquainting Yourselves with Board Policy (Format: GoToWebinar)
- **Apr. 1:** Cultivating Relationships as part of Good Governance (Format: GoToWebinar)
- **May 6:** Navigating Your Role as a New Board Member – Part II (Format: Zoom)

Please look for an email from AirWin Educational Services for registration information. All virtual sessions will be held the first Tuesday of each month, beginning in September, running through May, with a start time of 6:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Oshelski, [coshelski@lssu.edu](mailto:coshelski@lssu.edu).

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## Professional Development Options Face- to- Face

- **Oct. 2:** Lansing- MAPSA Office
- **Oct. 17:** Detroit Area (exact location TBD)
- **Oct. 30:** Traverse City-Grand Traverse Academy
- **Nov. 6:** Detroit Area (exact location TBD)
- **Nov. 13:** Southfield (exact location TBD)

All regional fact-to-face sessions will begin at 5:00 p.m and conclude by 8:00 p.m.

To register, click on the link.

◦ [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfWk6n3PmiekL56dtYj2QntxR4m65wLoHeNL7h06ZHBhNLBjg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfWk6n3PmiekL56dtYj2QntxR4m65wLoHeNL7h06ZHBhNLBjg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

**“You can never be overdressed  
or overeducated.”**

-Oscar Wilde



# Leadership Summit



Thank you to all that attended our Leadership Summit that was held in Bay City on July 16th and 17th, 2024. Clara Sale Davis was our keynote speaker and presented on Professional Learning Communities. Clara was not only knowledgeable but oh so entertaining and made us chuckle multiple times.

To learn more about Clara, click [here](#).

We were fortunate that the MDE Office of Special Education spoke on preparing for a least restrictive environment and provided MiAccess testing clarifications. Brooke Maciag coordinated discussions on teacher evaluations. The food and accommodations were top notch. Thank you to Tricia Coonan and her team at DoubleTree for taking such good care of us.

Finally, thank you to Darci Long, Brian Lynch, and the Bay City Team for hosting our social hour. It was the perfect opportunity to kick back, relax, and network with friends and colleagues. I'd like to offer a hearty congratulations to Karla Orlando and Julie Buchholtz for being crowned, cornhole champions.

Submitted by Julie Buchholtz, Corn Hole Champion



# NWEA Training Dates

## **MAP Growth Basics**

*Understand what makes MAP growth unique and meaningful.*

September 26th- 3:45-4:45 p.m. for new teachers

November 12th- 6:00-7:00 p.m. for board members

## **Applying Reports- Growth Reports for Teachers**

*Gain an introduction to class and student growth reports.*

October 24th- 3:45-4:45 p.m.

## **Applying Reports- Achievement Reports for Teachers**

*Gain an introduction to class and student achievement reports.*

November 14th- 3:45-4:45 p.m.

## **Responsive Planning for Instruction**

*Use MAP growth data and other assessment results to identify trends in student needs and apply data to plans and set goals.*

November 21st- 5:00-7:00 p.m.

## **Student Goal Setting**

*Use MAP growth data to support goals setting process and explore ways to involve students in the process.*

December 5th- 4:00-6:00 p.m.

\*Registration information sent out by email from [jhopper@lssu.edu](mailto:jhopper@lssu.edu).  
Limited to one person per academy until registration deadline has passed.  
At that time, the wait list will be accepted on a first-come-first served basis.  
Questions? Contact, Julie Buchholtz at [jhopper@lssu.edu](mailto:jhopper@lssu.edu) or 906-635-2118.

The logo for the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) is displayed in a white rectangular box. The word "nwea" is written in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font.

Northwest Evaluation Association

# PSA Article Submission Schedule

## 2024-25 SCHEDULE

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICADEMY GLOBAL</li> <li>• INNOCACADEMY ZEELAND</li> <li>• MOMENTUM</li> <li>• WAY FLINT</li> <li>• WAY DETROIT</li> </ul>
ARTICLE DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 6, 2024	
<b>JANUARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CONCORD BOYNE</li> <li>• ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY</li> <li>• DSLA, RSLA, OSLA</li> <li>• DATA</li> <li>• TIPTON</li> </ul>
ARTICLE DEADLINE JANUARY 6, 2025	
<b>APRIL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHARLTON HESTON</li> <li>• INNOCACADEMY ALLEGAN</li> <li>• RIDGE PARK</li> <li>• MACOMB</li> <li>• AMERICAN INTL.</li> </ul>
ARTICLE DEADLINE APRIL 4, 2025	
<b>JULY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GRAND TRAVERSE</li> <li>• CONCORD PETOSKEY</li> <li>• REGENT PARK</li> <li>• BAY CITY</li> <li>• NORTH CENTRAL</li> </ul>
ARTICLE DEADLINE JULY 7, 2025	
<b>-NOTE-</b>	EMAIL ARTICLE TO JHOPPER@LSSU.EDU



The LSSU CSO newsletter is published quarterly. (September, January, April, and July) In each edition, space is set aside to feature all of the good things occurring in our public school academies. Our academies are assigned a particular month to be featured, however, may also submit articles during other months. If space permits, we do our best to honor the request. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Buchholtz at [jhopper@lssu.edu](mailto:jhopper@lssu.edu) or 906-635-2118.

*“Money is only a tool. It will take you wherever you wish, but it will not replace you as the driver.”*

Ayn Rand



## Finance Corner

**Budget - Revision Resolution Due**  
Due- 9/30/2024

**Financial Audit**  
Due- 11/1/2024

**Financial Audit Letter to Those Charged with Governance**  
Due -11/1/2024

**Financial Information Database (FID)**  
Due- 11/1/2024

**Quarterly Financial Statement - 1st Quarter**  
Due - 11/14/2024

# Academy Spotlight

## ICademy Global

### Exploring Global Citizenship Through The Capstone Travel Program

iCademy Global, a cyber charter school based in Zeeland, Michigan, offers its students an exceptional blend of online education and real-world experiences through its innovative Capstone Travel Program. Open to students across the state, this program is more than just an educational journey; it's an experience that equips young learners with a deeper understanding of global issues and the importance of being responsible global citizens.

The Capstone Travel Program connects to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), providing students with a framework to explore and engage with critical global challenges. Last year, the focus was on UNSDG 6: ensuring access to clean water and sanitation for all. This theme guided the program's educational content and was paired with a series of enriching travel experiences for students from kindergarten through high school.

For elementary students, the program brought learning to life with trips to local natural sites such as Silver Lake Sand Dunes and Hoffmaster State Park and included a tour of Country Dairy. These trips provided hands-on opportunities to explore the importance of natural resources and sustainability in their own communities. Meanwhile, middle school students ventured further afield to Southern Virginia, where they had the unique experience of spending a night aboard the battleship Wisconsin, along with tours of Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown deepening their understanding of history, geography, and the significance of water in shaping civilizations.

High school students embarked on a more extensive journey to Utah and Arizona, where they explored the Grand Canyon, Zion, Snow Canyon, the engineering marvel of the Hoover Dam, and the cultural heritage of the Hualapai Reservation. These trips were not only about witnessing these iconic landmarks but also involved active participation in service projects, such as volunteering with Feed My Starving Children, emphasizing the importance of stewardship and community service.

iCademy Global is deeply committed to ensuring that all students, regardless of their financial background, can participate in these impactful experiences. The school allocates resources to reduce and, in many cases, negate travel costs, making these opportunities accessible to all students.



# iCademy Global Continued

As the new school year unfolds, iCademy Global shifts its focus to UNSDG 2: ending hunger, achieving food security, and promoting sustainable agriculture. This year's Capstone Travel Program promises to be just as impactful, with planned trips to Kentucky, where students will engage with local food challenges, and an international trip to Germany, offering a cross-cultural perspective on sustainable food systems.

Through the Capstone Travel Program, iCademy Global continues to foster a generation of informed, empathetic, and proactive global citizens. The program is a testament to the school's commitment to combining academic excellence with real-world experience, preparing students to make meaningful contributions to the world around them.



K-5 students on a tour at Country Dairy



6-8 on the Battleship Wisconsin

Submitted by,

Reid Nicholson,  
School Lead at  
iCademy Global



9-12 students at Snow Canyon State Park, Utah



# INNOCADEMY ZEELAND

## Newsletter



### Welcome Back To School!

Our Inno Z Team welcomed our new families with a dinner before our open house!

The following day our team had a great Restorative Practice PD in which we learned how important taking the time to build relationships is.

Our first PBIS Assembly with the entire school was a huge success! Students remembered to be respectful, responsible, resilient and safe.



### Before & After

### School Opportunities

This year we are beyond excited to offer before and after school opportunities for our students such as board games, art crafts and gardening club. Students were happy to do more with Art beyond the regular school day.



# Ridge Park Scholars

## Olympic Medalist Visits Ridge Park

Olympic bronze medalist Alena Olsen from Grand Rapids Michigan visited Ridge Park Academy on September 6th to speak during an all school assembly on the virtues of wisdom. Ms. Olsen was a member of the U.S. Rugby team she spoke about wisdom traits like patience, humility and dealing with uncertainty and how those traits gave her strength to regulate her emotions in the Olympics.



## iCademy Global Refuel Program

Students that attend iCademy virtual school have the opportunity to come into the academy on Tuesday and Thursday to have breakfast and lunch with other students. The café style setting provides tables, booths and stools at a counter for the students to study, eat and visit with other students and staff members. Here, Joe Thienes from LSSU visits the Refuel program and hears about the unique program features and enjoys a milkshake that was prepared by two students and their teacher.

Submitted by Joe Thienes, LSSU Field Representative

## **Philosophy**

*We believe in authorizing through the lens of an educator, realizing students are more than academic performance or financial incentives. True authorizing takes into account the whole child, whole academy, and whole community while recognizing the importance of increased performance and sustainability.*

## **Mission**

*To ensure quality oversight and support to our authorized charter academies resulting in students who are prepared for the next phase of life whether it be attending college, joining the military, or entering the workforce.*

## **Vision**

*We envision an educational system in Michigan that provides families with diverse educational opportunities that allow each child to flourish and find their place in the global community.*



# LSSU CSO Team

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